

CCH Parliament



National Daily Headlines

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CCH Parliament

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National Daily Headlines

A daily summary report of national political, government and legislative news

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Parliament today:

- Federal, New South Wales and South Australian Parliaments sitting

DIARY – WEDNESDAY 12 MAY 2010

National:

- Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan Post Budget Address. The Great Hall, Parliament House
- Budget Breakfast. Speakers include Lindsay Tanner and Andrew Robb, Canberra
- ABS: Housing Finance, Australia, March 2010
- ABS: Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia, August 2009
- House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth hearing: Inquiry into the Impact of Violence on Young Australians, Canberra
- House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Innovation hearing: Inquiry into Australia's international research collaboration
- Joint Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Audit hearing: Review of Auditor-General's Reports nos. 4 to 21 (09/10), Canberra
- US Ambassador to Australia Jeffrey Bleich to address a CEDA luncheon on US economic reform policies and global challenges, Sydney
- BlueScope Steel CIO officer Andrew Baker to address American Chamber of Commerce in Australia luncheon
- Reserve Bank of Australia credit/debit card data for March

New South Wales:

- Attorney General, John Hatzistergos, Minister for Women, Jodi McKay, Convenor of the Domestic Violence Coalition Committee, Betty Green and Executive Director of the Homicide Victims Support Group, Martha Jabour to discuss the Domestic Violence Death Review Team
- Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Frank Sartor and Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Angela D'Amore to test drive and inspect the new Mitsubishi i-Miev electric car
- Minister for State and Regional Development, Ian Macdonald to open the Industry Forum on Digital Sydney
- Minister for Emergency Services, Steve Whan to present the inaugural Greg Slater Memorial SES Scholarship, which provides \$5000 to two volunteers to pursue professional development of direct benefit to the SES and the community
- Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, Carmel Tebbutt to award the inaugural Judith Meppem Nursing Scholarships on International Nurses' Day
- Minister for the Arts, Virginia Judge To officially open 'Momentum Sydney'

Victoria:

- Minister for Community Development Lily D'Ambrosio to open Volunteering Victoria's National Volunteer Week event and announcing 72 volunteer grants

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Closing The Gap - Strengthening Indigenous Communities

NICOLA ROXON 11/05/10 131N1113

The Rudd Government is building on its commitment to close the gap in life expectancy and life opportunities for Indigenous Australians through targeted investment to strengthen Indigenous communities. The Budget addresses areas including: Community safety; Employment; Education and early childhood; Housing; Remote service delivery; Legal Assistance.

Celebrating Indigenous community volunteers

URSULA STEPHENS 11/05/10 131N1506

Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, Senator Ursula Stephens, congratulated the organisation Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) and the many volunteers it manages for their work in closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage. To celebrate National Volunteer Week, Senator Stephens presented the 2010 ICV Outstanding Volunteer Award to Tegan Murray. Tegan, a psychology student from Canberra, was recognised for her work mentoring 22 year old Torres Strait Islander, Reg Hodges, who has autism and a moderate intellectual disability.

Indigenous marathon runners make tracks to Parliament

WARREN SNOWDON 11/05/10 131N1514

The Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon announced the Rudd Government is helping fund an initiative to get a group of young Indigenous runners to compete in the New York Marathon. Mr Snowdon made the announcement whilst taking the group of Indigenous runners from Alice Springs, Maningrida and Kununurra on a tour of Parliament House.

Bamaga community to host top-level meeting - Qld

DESLEY BOYLE 11/05/10 131N4503

Queensland's most northern township will make history when it hosts a high-level Ministerial Indigenous Roundtable of Indigenous Council Mayors and State and Federal Government representatives. The Bamaga Roundtable will be the first to be hosted by a mainland Indigenous community since the historic Indigenous Partnership Agreement meetings in Yarrabah and Atherton in 2007. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Desley Boyle, who is co-chairing the Roundtable in Bamaga, paid tribute to the town's leaders for opening up their community.

Dialysis study to break down borders for WA patients - WA

KIM HAMES 11/05/10 131N6500

Western Australia has signed up to a joint study into the delivery of treatment for kidney disease among Indigenous people living in remote communities. Health Minister Kim Hames said the joint study between the State Government and Northern Territory, South Australia, and Federal governments and WA would investigate the best way to assist people who needed dialysis and lived in remote parts of the nation.

BANKING

Phasing down interest withholding tax on financial institutions to support banking competition

WAYNE SWAN 11/05/10 131N1009

The Treasurer, Wayne Swan announced the Rudd Government will provide an extra boost to banking competition by allowing non-major banks to access cheaper funding so they can offer cheaper loans to Australian households and businesses. This significant reform will help support smaller lenders further in putting more competitive pressure on the big banks over time, particularly in the mortgage market. The Government will phase down the Interest Withholding Tax (IWT) incurred by local subsidiaries and branches when they pay interest on borrowings from their overseas parents. This reform also extends to Australian-owned financial institutions borrowing from related parties overseas, and any financial institution borrowing offshore retail deposits which they on-lend in Australia. For local subsidiaries of overseas parents, the IWT rate will be reduced on such borrowings from 10 per cent to 7.5 per cent in 2013-14 and to 5 per cent in 2014-15.

Establishment of a Centre for International Finance and Regulation

KEVIN RUDD 11/05/10 131N1012

The Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, announced the Government will establish a Centre for International Finance and Regulation to support regional financial stability and build on Australia's growing status as a leading regional financial hub. The Government will invest up to \$25 million over the next four years to establish the Centre as a regional centre for excellence in financial system regulation and innovation. The Centre's aim will be to contribute to regional financial system stability by developing and supporting students, academics and researchers from the Asia Pacific region and by building regional capacity. The first phase of this investment will design a business model for the Centre, to be completed later this year. The second phase will select a university or consortium of universities to be appointed to host the Centre.

The banking sector welcomes tax relief on savings and other budget initiatives

AUSTRALIAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1039

The Australian Bankers' Association (ABA) said it welcomed the announcement in the Budget that tax relief would be provided to savers. The ABA was also pleased to see: a phase-down of interest withholding tax; the establishment of a Centre for International Finance and Regulation; reforms to boost business credit by encouraging Australians to consider savings products like corporate bonds; and improvements to first home saver accounts.

Credit unions, building societies welcome commitment to increased savings, housing affordability

ABACUS - AUSTRALIAN MUTUALS 11/05/10 131N1211

Credit unions, building societies and friendly societies welcome the announcement of savings initiatives and changes to First Home Saver Accounts in the Budget. Abacus, the industry association for mutual financial institutions, argued for changes to the taxation of deposits and the structure of FHSAs in its pre-Budget submission.

BROADCASTING & MEDIA

Digital Television Switchover

STEPHEN CONROY 11/05/10 131N1120

The Rudd Government will invest \$375.4 million over twelve years to provide transmission of digital free-to-air television services from a new satellite platform - the Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) service.

R18+ classification for video games one step closer in Australia - ACT

SIMON CORBELL 11/05/10 131N9503

Discussions about the introduction of an R18+ classification for computer games in Australia have taken a step forward following a meeting of all Australian Attorneys-General, ACT Attorney general, Simon Corbell, said. All State and Territory Attorneys-General met last week in Melbourne at the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) to discuss a range of issues, including the introduction of an R18+ classification for computer games. I am very encouraged by the high level of response to the Commonwealth Government's discussion paper on this issue, with approximately 60,000 submissions received, Mr Corbell said.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Continuation of Standard Business Reporting

CHRIS BOWEN 11/05/10 131N1014

The Minister for Corporate Law, Chris Bowen, said the Government will provide \$89.9 million over four years to support the continuation and operation of the Standard Business Reporting (SBR) program to streamline business to government reporting. The SBR program is a key initiative of the Council of Australian Governments' National Partnership Agreement to deliver a seamless national economy and will reduce the regulatory reporting burden for business. Once fully implemented, Standard Business Reporting (SBR) is expected to save Australian business approximately \$800 million per year, Mr Bowen said.

DEFENCE

2010-11 Budget provides more support for Australian veterans

ALAN GRIFFIN 11/05/10 131N1024

The government is delivering on key election promises for veterans in this Budget by providing a \$246.6 million package of new initiatives. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, said among the initiatives are commitments for: greater access to compensation and income support; preventing unnecessary hospital admissions for members of the veteran community; action on further recommendations of the Clarke review, and better access to health care and compensation for F-111 workers.

\$36 million to implement recommendations of the Clarke Review of Veterans' Entitlements

ALAN GRIFFIN 11/05/10 131N1025

The government will provide compensation and entitlements for former defence personnel who participated in British Nuclear Testing, and recognise others whose service has long gone unrecognised. The Rudd Government's 2010-11 Budget provides funding of \$36 million to implement key recommendations of the Clarke Review of veterans' entitlements, ignored by the previous government. The Minister for Veteran's Affairs, Alan Griffin, said the government had considered the Clarke Review findings and had come up with a fair and balanced response.

\$55 million package for former F-111 aircraft fuel tank maintenance workers

ALAN GRIFFIN 11/05/10 131N1026

Thousands more former F-111 fuel tank maintenance personnel will now have access to health care and compensation arrangements under a new \$55 million package. This program will expand access to health care and compensation to those who had been excluded previously. This investment comes in response to a parliamentary inquiry report into F-111 workers and their families. The Minister for Veteran's Affairs, Alan Griffin, said that these investments would deliver the Rudd Government's commitment to better health care arrangements across the country,

New program increases community care, reducing hospital stays

ALAN GRIFFIN 11/05/10 131N1027

The government will deliver improved health care for veterans and war widows and reduce unnecessary hospital stays through a new \$152.7 million investment announced in the budget. The Preventable Admissions and Improved Community Care Program will increase community-based support for veterans and war widows who have chronic conditions and complex care needs and are at risk of hospitalisation. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, said that new payments would be available to Local Medical Officers to better coordinate and oversee health care and war widows targeted by this new initiative.

Defence Budget Overview

JOHN FAULKNER 11/05/10 131N1028

The Government will continue its strong commitment to Defence through investment of \$25.7 billion in Defence, including an additional \$1.1 billion for operations in 2010-11. The Australian Government will also invest \$1.1 billion for enhanced force protection capabilities in Afghanistan over the period 2009-10 to 2012-13, including the acquisition of a Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar sense and warn capability.

Defence Operations Funding

JOHN FAULKNER 11/05/10 131N1029

The Rudd Government will continue its strong commitment to operations in Afghanistan and the wider Middle East, Solomon Islands, East Timor and coastal surveillance. In the 2010-11 Budget, the Government has allocated \$1.1 billion for Defence operations in 2010-11, bringing the total defence operations funding in 2010-11 to \$1.4 billion, including funding approved in previous budgets. The 2010-11 Budget will also allocate \$915.6 million to the Department of Defence for its commitment to operations in Afghanistan and the wider Middle East in 2010-11. A further \$19.6 million will be provided for Defence to support an increase in Australian Government civilian officials through a dedicated security protection force, and the provision of engineering and life support to this wider Government contribution.

New measures to protect our troops

JOHN FAULKNER 11/05/10 131N1031

Deployed troops will be better protected with an increase in investments made to make defence operations overseas. The Minister for Defence, Senator John Faulkner, announced that the government would allocate a further \$1.1 billion to safeguard Australian personnel, bringing the total commitment to \$1.4 billion. Over the period 2009-10 to 2012-13, the Australian Government will invest \$1.1 billion for enhanced force protection capabilities in Afghanistan. This initiative includes \$487.1 of expenditure in 2010-11.

Strategic reform program to deliver \$1 billion of cost-reductions in 2010-11

JOHN FAULKNER 11/05/10 131N1032

The Defence Strategic Reform Program will deliver more than \$1 billion in cost-reductions in 2010-11 for reinvestment in Defence capability and give Australia a stronger, more agile, and harder-hitting defence force. This builds on the cost-reductions of \$797 million Defence will achieve in 2009-10. The Minister for Defence, Senator John Faulkner, said the Strategic Reform Program is a major public sector reform initiative. The SRP is a decade-long campaign of reform that engages all areas of defence, he said.

Cuts to training to devastate the Army Reserve

STUART ROBERT 11/05/10 131N1411

The Government intends to squeeze \$197m over the next eight years from the Army Reserve by cutting training budgets according to documents outlining the Rudd Government's Strategic Reform Program (SRP) initiatives, according to the Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Stuart Robert. The cuts demonstrate a significant contrast between the views expressed just last year by Chief of the Defence Force, Angus Houston and the Government's commitment to the reserves and reservists.

ADF completes successful multi-lateral exercise

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE 11/05/10 131N1517

Exercise Bersama Shield 2010 (BS10), a multi-lateral exercise between Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand and the United Kingdom concluded on 7 May. The exercise continued to build on the close working relationship that has been developed between the five nations through the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) over almost forty years. The participating nations convened on the Malaysian peninsula and the South China Sea from 26 April to 7 May to enhance interoperability in the combined air and maritime exercise.

Helicopter exercise increases East Timor Defence Force capability

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE 11/05/10 131N1520

International Stabilisation Force (ISF) soldiers have conducted a Tactical Rotary Wing Exercise (TACREX) to enhance the capability of the East Timor Defence Force (F-FDTL). Elements of the ISF and the F-FDTL simulated a joint company assault by helicopter on an abandoned prison complex in Manatuto, with soldiers from Brisbane-based Alpha Company, 8/9 Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment as the lead. Commander of the ISF Colonel Simon Stuart said integrating the multi-national force provided many learning outcomes.

International Military Shooting Competition

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE 11/05/10 131N1521

On Thursday 13 May the Chief Of Army, Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, will present the Champion Shot Medal to the best shooter in the Army as part of this year's Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting (AASAM). This international shooting competition is being conducted at Puckapunyal Military Range, from 8 May to 20 May. It is designed to pitch the best ADF shooters against each other in rigorous and demanding shooting conditions. This focus ensures the contest is representative of the marksmanship skills required in a modern Defence Force.

Maralinga meanness symbolic of bare bones budget

NICK XENOPHON 11/05/10 131N1711

Independent Senator for South Australia Nick Xenophon says the ruling out of compensation for Maralinga victims in the budget is symbolic of how tight-fisted the Government has become after two years of record spending. This budget makes you feel like a kid whose birthday was yesterday,

Nick said. It's going to be a long time before anything good happens. Senator Xenophon criticised the Government for not providing lump sum compensation for Australian victims of nuclear tests, although they will receive medical benefits.

ECONOMICS

Economic and fiscal background to the 2010-11 Budget

WAYNE SWAN 11/05/10 131N1000

The Treasurer, Wayne Swan, said the 2010-11 Budget shows the Australian economy is emerging from the global recession in an enviable position, having outperformed every other advanced economy. The economy grew by 1.4 per cent during 2009 – a full 4½ percentage points above the average of the advanced economies. The Australian economy is set to remain a world leader, with strong growth of 3¼ per cent forecast in 2010-11, rising to 4 per cent in 2011-12 as private sector activity continues to recover from the downturn.

2010-11 Budget - responsible management and a faster return to surplus

WAYNE SWAN 11/05/10 131N1001

The Treasurer, Wayne Swan, said the 2010-11 Budget delivers the highest standards of responsible economic management to strengthen our economy and secure future growth. The Budget converts Australia's successes during the global recession into even lower unemployment and a stronger, more secure economy for working families. Through a new benchmark of strict fiscal discipline, the Rudd Government is returning the Budget to surplus in three years, three years early, and ahead of every major advanced economy. The Government is also delivering major economic reforms so Australia can prepare for future challenges and take full advantage of the opportunities ahead.

Transcript of press conference, Canberra

WAYNE SWAN 11/05/10 131N1047

The Treasurer, Wayne Swan, discussed the 2010 - 2011 Budget.

Transcript of television interview, ABC Lateline

TANNER LINDSAY 11/05/10 131N1178

The Minister for Finance and Deregulation, Lindsay Tanner, discussed the 2010 - 2011 Budget.

2010-11 Federal Budget: the dividend of two decades of economic reform

NSW BUSINESS CHAMBER 11/05/10 131N1212

NSW's largest business organisation, NSW Business Chamber said the changed economic projections contained within the 2010-11 Federal Budget represented good news about Australia's immediate economic prospects. As the rest of the world struggles, we are experiencing the dividends of strong economic management by successive Australian Governments of both political persuasions, said Stephen Cartwright, CEO of NSW Business Chamber. We have weathered the storm - in part because of the economic reforms undertaken by previous Governments and in part, because the counter-cyclical stimulus measures contained in the stimulus package and the continued success of the resources sector.

Budget to deliver jobs, economic growth & better living standards for working Australians

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS 11/05/10 131N1402

Today's Federal Budget should focus on supporting jobs, economic growth and delivering better living standards for working Australians and their families, said the Australian Council of Trade Unions. ACTU President Sharan Burrow said unions will be looking for tax relief for working families, further spending on health and education, investment in skills and infrastructure, the

extension of workers' rights, and the delivery of higher superannuation. After successfully fending off the worst of the Global Financial Crisis, this year's Budget must focus on consolidating Australia's recovery from the downturn and investing for the future, Ms Burrow said.

Transcript of doorstep interview, Canberra

ERIC ABETZ 11/05/10 131N1406

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator Eric Abetz, discussed the Budget.

Transcript of radio interview, ABC News Radio

CHRIS BOWEN 11/05/10 131N1407

The Minister for Financial Services, Superannuation and Corporate Law, Chris Bowen, discussed the Budget and tax reforms.

Inflationary pressures ease as interest rates bite

DUNN & BRADSTREET INTERNATIONAL 11/05/10 131N1503

There are signs monetary tightening by the Reserve Bank and the end of the Government's stimulus package are having the desired effect on inflation with Australian executives reporting lower expectations across a range of indices for the start of the new financial year. The latest Dun & Bradstreet Business Expectations Survey, which examines expectations for the September quarter, reveals executives are expecting slower growth in sales, employment, inventories and selling prices compared to the June quarter. In positive news the decline in selling price expectations is a sign that there may be some easing of inflationary pressures as firms respond to the impact of rising interest rates.

Transcript of doorstep interview, Canberra

WAYNE SWAN 11/05/10 131N1505

Treasurer, Wayne Swan, discussed 2010-11 Budget and Resource Super Profits Tax.

Budget a house of cards built on rubbery numbers

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS 11/05/10 131N1549

The Rudd government's third budget is a house of cards built on a series of heroic assumptions and ambitious projections', John Roskam, Executive Director of the free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs said from the Federal Parliament this evening. These heroic assumptions include: 1. world economic growth averaging 4.5% each year for the next two years, 2. an increase in the terms of trade of 14% next year - the highest increase in sixty years, 3. an increase in business investment by 12.5% in the year after next, and 4. exports to increase by 5% next year compared to a 1.5% increase this year. The Rudd government is hoping for a massive increase in business investment, while slugging one of the core engines of Australia's economic growth through a resources super profits tax, Mr Roskam said.

Budget repair task gets underway

AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY 11/05/10 131N1701

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry said the Federal Budget projects an optimistic yet realistic view of the growth prospects of the Australian economy and wisely commences the process of bringing the Commonwealth budget into repair after 18 months of substantial stimulus spending. The earlier than expected return to a surplus position in 2012-13 is welcomed by business. ACCI has put the case that this is essential to ensure higher debt and deficits do not place pressure on interest rates.

Traditional Labor Budget - good for jobs, economy and working Australians, say unions

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS 11/05/10 131N1702

Responding to the 2010 Federal Budget, ACTU President Sharan Burrow said the budget is good for working Australians, good for the economy and good for future generations. It is a traditional Labor Budget that delivers tax cuts, better quality healthcare for a changing population, and higher superannuation for working people. With jobs and the economy forecast to grow strongly, Australia is an island of stability and security amid a sea of economic difficulty, she said. Weathering the worst financial crisis for a generation, the Rudd Government has demonstrated a steady hand at the tiller while steering a course for a fairer and more prosperous Australia.

Cautious and credible - government plays to its strengths of economic management and health

AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY GROUP 11/05/10 131N1703

This year's Federal Budget, while appropriately cautious, lays out a credible strategy for rebuilding the nation's balance sheet and ensures that fiscal policy does its share of the heavy lifting in easing pressure on inflation and monetary policy as the recovery gathers pace, Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) Chief Executive Heather Ridout said. As well, the strategy on skills is very positive and when combined with the health initiatives will bring widespread benefits. The tax break for savings, the standard deduction measure and the interest withholding tax relief will be widely welcomed, as will the new infrastructure measures. At the same time, she said, Australia faces major productivity challenges and capacity constraints and more will need to be done to address these in the period ahead.

A shameless con

JOE HOCKEY 11/05/10 131N1708

The Shadow Treasurer, Joe Hockey, said this Budget confirms that Kevin Rudd and Wayne Swan are addicted to spending and allergic to tough decisions. This is another big taxing, big spending Labor Budget with no serious reform. The Budget assumes less smoking with higher tobacco taxes, yet it assumes more investment with massively higher mining taxes. Kevin Rudd and Wayne Swan are asking the Australian people to trust them to deliver a Budget outcome that is based on the most favourable terms of trade in 60 years, assumes a significant increase in investment in resources and assumes no new additional Government expenditure between now and 2014.

Return to surplus: but what is the risk?

BUSINESS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1712

This budget sees a sooner than expected return to surplus and the government meeting its own fiscal rules, but it introduces a huge question mark over future growth, BCA Chief Executive Katie Lahey said. The 2010-11 federal budget forecasts a return to budget surplus by 2012-13 underpinned by the government meeting its commitments to cap real expenditure growth at 2 per cent and to constrain the level of tax-to-GDP. It also outlines a range of measures that have the potential to enhance productive capacity. The proposed introduction of the Resources Super Profits Tax (RSPT), however, creates a new and substantial risk - both for the economic outlook and for the stability of the budget itself.

Victoria welcomes 2010 Commonwealth Budget - Vic

JOHN LENDERS 11/05/10 131N3201

Treasurer John Lenders said working Victorians are the big winners in the 2010 Commonwealth budget which would work with the Brumby Labor Government's 2010 State Budget to secure jobs, cut taxes and keep Victoria ahead of the pack during the global economic recovery.

NT Government welcomes responsible Federal Budget - NT

DELIA LAWRIE 11/05/10 131N7200

Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, welcomed the Rudd Government's 2010-11 Budget.

2010-11 Federal Budget - Tas

MICHAEL AIRD 11/05/10 131N8700

The 2010-11 Federal Budget is about securing Australia's long term economic future, the Treasurer, Michael Aird said tonight. It reflects a commitment to strong financial management with the Budget returning to surplus in 2012-13, Mr Aird said. This is clearly a budget for the years ahead and securing Australia's future.

EDUCATION

Investing in skills for sustainable growth

WAYNE SWAN 11/05/10 131N1003

The Treasurer, Wayne Swan, and the Minister for Education, Julia Gillard said the Rudd Government will invest more than \$660 million in training, apprenticeships and adult literacy and numeracy to ensure Australia has the skills it needs to support a growing economy. The four-year skills package will deliver: up to 39,000 additional training places in sectors facing high skills demands through a \$200 million investment in a new Critical Skills Investment fund; support for around 22,500 new apprenticeship commencements through an \$79.4 million extension of the successful Apprentice Kickstart; an offer to the States and Territories to provide a guaranteed entitlement to a training place for all Australians under the age of 25 years; numeracy, literacy and language courses for up to 140,000 Australians to improve their quality of life, career prospects and productivity; and better training for the 1.7 million Australians studying in the vocational training system.

Australian's to receive a National Entitlement to a Quality Training Place

JULIA GILLARD 11/05/10 131N1114

The Rudd Government will invest \$243 million over the next four years to transform Australia's Vocational Education and Training (VET) system as part of the Skills for Sustainable Growth package.

\$300 million for Skills for Recovery

JULIA GILLARD 11/05/10 131N1115

The Rudd Government will invest almost \$300 million over the next four years to enable Australia to respond quickly and effectively to skills shortage hot spots in industries such as mining and construction.

\$120 million to boost adult language, literacy and numeracy skills

JULIA GILLARD 11/05/10 131N1116

The Rudd Government will invest almost \$120 million over the next four years to create unprecedented access to language, literacy and numeracy programs as part of the Skills for Sustainable Growth strategy.

\$273.7 million to boost the quality of child care and early childhood education for children

JULIA GILLARD 11/05/10 131N1117

The Rudd Government is investing \$273.7 million to support the introduction of the new National Quality Framework for early childhood education and child care.

National school literacy and numeracy tests begin today

JULIA GILLARD 11/05/10 131N1416

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today welcomed the beginning of national testing in literacy and numeracy for 2010 and wished students luck with their tests. About 1.1 million students from every school across Australia will take part in the national NAPLAN tests beginning today and running through until Thursday (13 May). Ms Gillard said that the NAPLAN results help teachers and parents ensure that no child is being left behind in core skills like reading, writing, punctuation, grammar and maths. She said that she understood parents and kids would be nervous but urged students to do their best.

Transcript of doorstep interview, Canberra

JULIA GILLARD 11/05/10 131N1516

Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, discussed NAPLAN tests and the Budget.

Budget reaction

GROUP TRAINING AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1540

Group Training Australia (GTA), representing the single largest network employing apprentices and trainees, welcomed a major injection of funds into training and skills development contained in the Federal Budget. The Budget provides a very welcome and valuable contribution to sustaining jobs for young people at a critical stage in the economic recovery, said the Chief Executive of Group Training Australia, Jim Barron.

A missed opportunity to ramp up Australia's research investment

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE 11/05/10 131N1560

The Australian Academy of Science, representing Australia's leading scientists, strongly welcomed last year's budget, which contained a substantial increase in Australia's research funding. This budget continues these commendable commitments in a tight economic environment, but it is concerning that there are some apparent deficiencies and little further progress.

No frills won't pay the bills: Budget ignores student rental crisis

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS 11/05/10 131N1709

The 2010 Budget has ignored Henry Review recommendations to increase Rent Assistance, the National Union of Students and the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations said. While the government has invested in more than 22,000 new apprenticeships and \$300 million dollars for essential skills training, no new money is being set aside to financially support these young people as they undertake further education. Students are disappointed with the Government's lack of follow through on reforms they began this year to student welfare payments, and are disappointed at the lack of attention to the student housing crisis.

ALA applauds Investment in foundation skills

ADULT LEARNING AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1049

Adult Learning Australia congratulated the Rudd government on its investment of \$120 million dollars over 4 years in language, literacy and numeracy programs. Sally Thompson, CEO of Adult Learning said, It is commendable that the government has had the foresight to invest in the foundation skills that will enable Australia's most vulnerable workers to remain in employment and take advantage of the economic recovery.

Lack of trainers will hamper infrastructure boom

CIVIL CONTRACTORS FEDERATION 11/05/10 131N1713

A strong emphasis and serious commitment to skills development was warmly welcomed by the Civil Contractors Federation (CCF) tonight. CCF was also pleased to see the Government's strong commitment to infrastructure development - particularly the \$5.6 billion over the next decade for the infrastructure fund announced last Sunday. However, we are disappointed that the Government has not made any announcements in relation to the funding being sought for Skills Centres in South Australia and Queensland under the Education Investment Fund, Mr Chris White the CEO of Civil Contractors Federation said tonight.

NAPLAN Tests Start For 300,000 Students - NSW

VERITY FIRTH 11/05/10 131N2001

The Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, said the national literacy and numeracy tests (NAPLAN) start today for more than 300,000 NSW school students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills taught day-to-day in our classrooms, Ms Firth said. Over three days students sit four tests covering, reading, writing, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and maths. The tests provide valuable diagnostic information for teachers and allow governments to target funding to the schools that need it the most.

NAPLAN test results will be abused - NSW

JOHN KAYE 11/05/10 131N2004

As students across NSW sit down to the NAPLAN tests, schools still face the inevitability of unfair comparisons and damaging league tables, according to Greens NSW MP John Kaye. Dr Kaye said: "Before the ink was barely dry on her agreement with the Australian Education Union, Federal Education Minister Julia Gillard was telling the media she would continue to publish average test results. "Newspapers and other outlets will still be able to harvest the results and publish school league tables, regardless of what other information is put on the 'my school' website. Schools and students will be stigmatised and the teachers will be forced to teach to the test."

Koorie students lead the way in Melbourne - Vic

BRONWYN PIKE 11/05/10 131N3507

Education Minister Bronwyn Pike congratulated 40 Koorie students on being selected to attend the inaugural Wannik Student Leadership Forum in Melbourne. The secondary school students attending the four-day forum in Melbourne had been selected by their schools and communities for demonstrating leadership qualities and the ability to make a difference. Ms Pike said the students at the forum would develop long-lasting networks with their peers.

Is the Government cheating on NAPLAN results? - Qld

BRUCE FLEGG, DR 11/05/10 131N4202

The Minister for Education and Training should release numbers of students who were absent from NAPLAN testing. LNP education spokesman Dr Bruce Flegg said given the numerous reports of parents being told to keep their lower-performing children at home to secure better results for their school, the Minister had an obligation to release the number of student absences.

Volunteer readers ready as program rolls out statewide - Qld

GEOFF WILSON 11/05/10 131N4507

Education and Training Minister Geoff Wilson praised the efforts of volunteers who have registered to join the Bligh Government's Ready Readers program. The volunteers are from across the social spectrum: late-teen students, parents and carers, business people, professionals and members of

the immigrant community. The youngest is 18 and the oldest in his 80s. The announcement that 533 Ready Readers so far had signed up to read with and support young readers in primary schools, coincided with National Volunteer Week.

Adelaide Pacific International College audit - SA

JACK SNELLING 11/05/10 131N5502

The State Government has moved to protect the welfare of about 450 students following an audit of the Adelaide Pacific International College. Employment Training and Further Education Minister, Jack Snelling said the audit, conducted in March this year, alleges the college to be non-compliant with 12 of the 14 standards set down in the Australian Quality Training Framework code.

Push for more science and maths teachers - SA

JACK SNELLING 11/05/10 131N5503

Science and Information Economy Minister, Jack Snelling, says a State Government's investment of more than \$9 million is aimed at addressing a shortage of science and maths teachers across the State. The funding will provide high level qualifications in science and maths for up to 155 South Australian high school teachers, Mr Snelling said.

Literacy and numeracy tests start in SA schools - SA

JAY WEATHERILL 11/05/10 131N5504

Education Minister Jay Weatherill says literacy and numeracy tests starting in South Australian schools will be the first to measure the progress of individual children over time. Children, parents, teachers and principals will be able to measure improvements made since the equivalent tests were held two years ago. The National Assessment Program - Literacy And Numeracy tests are being undertaken by Year 3,5,7 and 9 students across the state.

MTA welcomes clamp down on overseas student training - SA

MOTOR TRADE ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N5505

The Motor Trade Association of South Australia has welcomed the State Government's move to clamp down on an international training provider which has allegedly breached quality standards. The MTA expressed its concerns to the State Government last year that a number of operators, including the Adelaide Pacific International College (APIC), were offering training in automotive trades without any consultation with industry, MTA Executive Director John Chapman said.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Cameron thanks emergency services volunteers - Vic

BOB CAMERON 11/05/10 131N3510

Emergency Services Minister Bob Cameron thanked the state's 90,000 emergency services volunteers for their efforts in keeping Victorians safe at an event to mark National Volunteer Week. Mr Cameron joined other Melburnians in showing support for Victoria's volunteers by writing a personalised message of thanks on a VICSES rescue truck in City Square.

Volunteers in Policing recognised during National Volunteer Week - Qld

NEIL ROBERTS 11/05/10 131N4502

Police Minister Neil Roberts and Commissioner Bob Atkinson acknowledged the important work of Volunteers in Policing (ViP) at the 2010 State ViP Forum, as part of National Volunteer Week. Mr Roberts said Volunteers in Policing had been providing an important service to the community and Queensland police for the past 12 years.

One big thank you for Queensland volunteers - Qld

KAREN STRUTHERS 11/05/10 131N4505

Community Services Minister Karen Struthers and Emergency Services Minister Neil Roberts recognised Queensland's volunteers at the One Big Thank You video linkup held across the state for National Volunteer Week. During the event, morning teas to honour volunteers were held in places like Brisbane, Toowoomba, the Sunshine Coast, Rockhampton and Stanthorpe.

\$19.1million boost for police resources in Karratha - WA

ROB JOHNSON 11/05/10 131N6502

Police Minister Rob Johnson and Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan visited Karratha to open the new \$17.5million Pilbara Police Complex, which will significantly boost police presence in the region. Mr Johnson said the 24-hour a day, seven days a week station would cater for up to 62 staff and had been designed to enable additional police officers to be based there in the future.

ENERGY

Australia's Biggest Ever Renewable Energy Roll-Out

KEVIN RUDD 11/05/10 131N1614

The Australian Government will commit a further \$652.5 million over four years to establish a Renewable Energy Future Fund to support Australia's response to climate change. The Fund will provide additional support: for the development and deployment of large and small scale renewable energy projects, for example further investments in geothermal, solar and wave energy; and to enhance take-up of industrial, commercial and residential energy efficiency, helping Australian businesses and households reduce their energy consumption. The Fund will include partnerships between the Government and the private sector to make critical early stage investments to leverage private funds to support the commercialisation of renewable technologies.

Growth of Liquefied Natural Gas sector critical to Australia's economic growth

AUSTRALIAN PETROL PRODUCTION & EXPLORATION ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1619

The 2010-11 Budget delivered tonight reinforces the importance of Australia's oil and gas sector in under-pinning Australia's future prosperity. According to the Chief Executive of the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association, Ms Belinda Robinson, the Budget has identified growth of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) industry as a key driver of the expected surge in mining investment over the coming years.

Motorists kicked by Bligh's fuel tax - Qld

TIM NICHOLLS 11/05/10 131N4201

Queensland motorists continue to pay more for fuel than other Australians thanks to Bligh and Labor's fuel tax. LNP Shadow Treasurer Tim Nicholls said price comparisons by fuel-price monitor MotorMouth showed Brisbane had the highest average price for unleaded fuel of mainland capitals in April - 145.7 c/l.

ENERGEX boosts Brighton power supply - Qld

ENERGEX 11/05/10 131N4500

Around 4,000 homes and businesses in Brighton are set to benefit from a \$2.5 million ENERGEX project to upgrade the local electricity network. As part of the project ENERGEX will triple the capacity at the Brighton Substation located on the corner of Northcote Street and Queens Parade, with the two existing 5MV.A transformers being replaced with two 15MV.A transformers.

Fuel price advice for Perth drivers - WA

WA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE 11/05/10 131N6200

On Wednesday 12 May 2010, 21 BP sites are increasing their ULP prices to 136.9 cents per litre (cpl) - an increase of 11.0 cpl. Prices of PULP and 98RON at these sites are also increasing by 11 cpl. Despite this, 76 percent of stations in Perth - that's a total of 222 - will still be selling ULP below the metropolitan average of 126.2 cents per litre.

Barnett Government plays favourites with Fuel Card allocation - WA

KINNEALLY TEYS SOLICITORS 11/05/10 131N6201

The Barnett Government must explain why it has expanded the Country Age Pension Fuel Card scheme to include some semi-rural areas and not others, Shadow Minister for Transport Ken Travers said. Mr Travers said he welcomed the extension of the Fuel Card scheme to semi-rural communities such as Serpentine and Jarradale but was concerned it still ignored hundreds of pensioners living in areas to the north and east of Perth.

ENVIRONMENT

Further \$100 million for water purchasing

PENNY WONG 11/05/10 131N1122

Water Minister Penny Wong said an additional \$100 million in funding for water purchasing has been brought forward in the 2010-11 Federal Budget to help return the Murray Darling Basin's rivers and wetlands to health.

A new knowledge powerhouse for the environment

PETER GARRETT 11/05/10 131N1174

The Rudd Government will invest \$18 million over four years to establish a groundbreaking National Plan for Environmental Information to help protect our precious environmental assets into the future. The National Plan for Environmental Information is the first step towards long term reform of Australia's environmental information base, building this critical infrastructure for the future., Minister for Environment Protection, Peter Garrett, said. He said it is increasingly understood that we need comprehensive and timely environmental information to help ensure government policies and programs are evidence based and effective, and to improve decision making about Australia's natural capital.

\$23 million for the nation;s new national waste policy

PETER GARRETT 11/05/10 131N1175

The Government will invest \$23 million over five years to deliver Australia's new landmark National Waste Policy, Environment Protection Minister Peter Garrett said. The National Waste Policy provides leadership to tackle Australia's growing waste problem over the coming decade. The National Waste Policy will help us avoid the generation of waste, reduce the amount of waste being disposed and turn more waste into valuable resources, Mr Garrett said.

Safeguarding our marine biodiversity

PETER GARRETT 11/05/10 131N1176

The Rudd Government will invest an additional \$20.1 million to protect our unique reefs and oceans through marine planning and conservation measures, Environment Protection Minister Peter Garrett said today. Mr Garrett said the Government was providing an extra \$12 million over two years to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to help strengthen the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

Budget investments in arts, culture and heritage

PETER GARRETT 11/05/10 131N1177

The Government will invest \$17.7 million over four years for the National Historic Sites program, as well as an extra \$3.1 million in 2010-11 to address safety issues along the Kokoda Track as part of our commitment to preserving our national heritage, culture and arts. This new investment in the Kokoda track includes the complete upgrade of the Owers Corner Road to all-weather gravel, safety enhancements at the Kokoda airstrip and improvements in radio communication.

Continued support for Australia-Antarctica airlink

PETER GARRETT 11/05/10 131N1023

The highly successful Australia-Antarctica Airlink will continue, thanks to a \$11.7 million commitment in the 2010-11 Budget. The Minister for Heritage, Peter Garrett, said the groundbreaking Airlink project provides speedy transport for scientists, expeditioners, and others participating in the Australian Antarctic program from Hobart to Antarctica's Casey Station.

Budget confirms Government has abandoned climate change action

WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1038

Failure to commit to an emissions trading scheme by 2011 and cuts to the flagship environmental program Caring for Country indicate the Government is abandoning its commitment to tackle climate change mitigation and letting the environment slide off its agenda. The Australian people should be bitterly disappointed that this government has abandoned its national and international leadership on climate change, said WWF Conservation Manager Gilly Llewellyn. According to the budget papers the government may never legislate an emissions trading scheme, yet there is no contingency plan to meet the government's commitment to reduce emissions between five to twenty five per cent by 2020.

Budget a win for climate change deniers

FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY 11/05/10
131N1048

Delayed action on climate change flies in the face of peer-reviewed science that shows human-induced climate change is threatening our future and urgent action is required, says the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies [FASTS]. The Federal Budget is a victory for those people with their head in the sand on climate change - the Opposition and The Greens who voted against an Emissions Trading Scheme, said Anna-Maria Arabia, Executive Director of FASTS. The climate change debate has elevated science into everyday conversation from the kitchen table right through to the boardroom and voters have made it abundantly clear that they want action now, not in three years time.

Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme deferral

DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE 11/05/10 131N1121

This fact sheet provides information on the financial impacts of the Government's decision to defer introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

Funding to decommission nuclear facilities

KIM CARR 11/05/10 131N1171

The Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and research, Senator Kim Carr, said the Government will provide \$9.7 million in 2010-11 to safely decommission obsolete nuclear facilities at the Lucas Heights Science and Technology Centre and the National Medical Cyclotron. The funding will ensure that Australia complies with international best practice for decommissioning

nuclear facilities. The funding will be used to dismantle the facilities, support ongoing maintenance and inspections, and manage waste products.

Environment cut, still no carbon tax

BOB BROWN 11/05/10 131N1203

Australian Greens Leader Bob Brown says that the Rudd Government's third budget makes major cuts to key environmental programs and has failed to deliver a carbon tax to tackle climate change. The good news is that as a result of the Greens-backed economic stimulus package, unemployment will be at 4.75%, not the double figures we would have had if the opposition had succeeded in blocking the stimulus package, said Senator Brown.

Australia's massive wildlife loss

BOB BROWN 11/05/10 131N1414

The United Nations report finding of a 31 percent loss of wildlife since 1970 represents an unprecedented environmental crisis and challenge for the Rudd government, Australian Greens Leader Bob Brown said. Extrapolate this report's findings and 90% of the bulk of wildlife will be gone in a century. But government policies are making the crisis worse, not better.

Murray-Darling water to flow where it is needed most

CSIRO AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1501

A new CSIRO report will help ensure the delivery of maximum ecological benefits from water allocations in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB). Funded by the National Water Commission, the report; Ecological Outcomes of Flow Regimes in the Murray-Darling Basin, provides information that will assist water managers to improve and justify delivery of environmental water to 'icon sites', including wetlands of international significance such as the Macquarie Marshes, Gwydir Wetlands and Narran Lakes.

Climate predictions put focus on health impacts

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY 11/05/10 131N1700

A study predicting that climate change could make much of Earth unfit for humans by 2300 should refocus government attention on the health impacts of global temperature rise, ANU experts argue. New research from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and Purdue University in the US has forecast climate change over the next three centuries - longer than many similar studies - and suggests that average temperatures could rise as much as 10 or 12 per cent in that time. The paper is published in the US-based Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). Professor Tony McMichael and Dr Keith Dear from the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at ANU have published a commentary paper responding to the research in the same edition of PNAS.

Budget does not deliver scale of action needed for climate and environment

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION 11/05/10 131N1710

The Australian Conservation Foundation welcomed the Renewable Energy Future Fund and money for water buy back but said the budget did not deliver the scale of action needed on climate and the environment. The \$652 million Renewable Energy Future Fund is welcome and will support investment in the clean energy economy, but doesn't deliver at anywhere near the scale that a price on pollution would, said ACF executive director Don Henry. Mr Henry also said cutting back the major national environmental protection program, Caring for our Country, by \$80 million over four year is the wrong way to go, particularly when the UN's Global Biodiversity Outlook has warned of 'rapid degradation and collapse'.

Labor's Red Gum Decision Report useless (NSW)

KATRINA HODGKINSON 11/05/10 131N2510

Shadow Minister for Natural Resource Management, Katrina Hodgkinson, said that a report she obtained in Parliament recently shows the flawed nature of the research being used by the State Labor government to justify the destruction of the Red Gum Timber Industry. The NSW Parliament is likely to debate the National Park Estate (Riverina Red Gum Reservation) Bill 2010 this week.

Wild confusion from coalition on dogs - Vic

JOE HELPER 11/05/10 131N3514

The Liberal-National Coalition has been caught out telling one part of the state the Government should eradicate wild dogs and telling another they could not, Agriculture Minister Joe Helper said. Mr Helper said that in a clear sign of Coalition confusion, Leader of the Nationals Peter Ryan told ABC Gippsland's morning program that it was not the Coalition's intention to eradicate wild dogs.

Foley needs to learn 'when to hold 'em' - SA

MARK PARNELL 11/05/10 131N5500

The Treasurer, Kevin Foley, has exposed his poker hand over the Roxby expansion, says Greens MLC Mark Parnell. On ABC radio, the Treasurer said: The point is guys, is that Olympic Dam must go ahead - we don't have the luxury of debating that issue from the Government's point of view - it is a must happen project for this state. The Treasurer's statement, which has no doubt been repeated in private to BHP Billiton, massively weakens our State's bargaining position on the Olympic Dam expansion, said Greens MLC Mark Parnell.

Effective management planned for South-West water resources - WA

GRAHAM JACOBS 11/05/10 131N6504

Water Minister Graham Jacobs has released a strategic plan to guide water management in the South-West region for the next 20 years. Dr Jacobs said the 'South West Regional Water Plan' identified actions and policies that would enable the South-West community and industry to adapt to having a decrease in water availability while maintaining the amenity and economic growth of the region.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Government acts to curb welfare fraud linked to organised crime

CHRIS BOWEN 11/05/10 131N1030

The Minister for Human Services, Chris Bowen MP, announced the Rudd Government will enhance the use of intelligence provided by law enforcement agencies to better protect social welfare payments from fraud associated with organised crime. The Federal Budget will provide \$71 million over four years to enable Centrelink to investigate those suspected of deliberately engaging in organised welfare fraud, Mr Bowen said. This measure will help to ensure that welfare payments only go to those who need them and is expected to reduce fraud and fraudulent claims by an estimated \$127.6 million over four years.

Assisting jobseekers and people with disability return to work

JULIA GILLARD 11/05/10 131N1118

The Rudd Government will improve assessments for disadvantaged jobseekers and people with disabilities to ensure appropriate employment services and income support are provided. New Disability Support Pension (DSP) assessments will help people with disabilities to return to work by focusing on their ability, rather than disability.

Find and connect service for Forgotten Australians

JENNY MACKLIN 11/05/10 131N1126

The Rudd Government will help Forgotten Australians and former child migrants reconnect with their families as part of the \$26.5 million Find and Connect Service.

Government supporting Australians with disability

JENNY MACKLIN 11/05/10 131N1127

Families Minister Jenny Macklin said people with disability are going to be encouraged to participate in landmark reforms that will help the Rudd Government deliver lasting gains in this important area of policy. The Government is investing \$520,000 to involve people with disabilities, their families and carers in the Productivity Commission's landmark inquiry into long-term care and support.

Labor energy saving policy EQUALS pension cuts

SUSSAN LEY 11/05/10 131N1515

Pensioners who installed energy saving systems such as solar panels under the Rudd Government energy savings schemes may have their Centrelink benefits reduced as a result. Sussan Ley MP, has been made aware of cuts to pensions for people who have installed energy saving systems on their homes which have resulted in credits to their electricity accounts. These credits are treated as income by Centrelink.

Investment in primary healthcare welcomed but not enough help for unemployed Australians

ACOSS - AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICES 11/05/10 131N1034

ACOSS has welcomed the release of the Federal Budget which forecasts an earlier-than-expected return to surplus and unemployment declining faster than predicted. The resource rental tax has created an economically sensible way for the Government to fund services for the community, especially services for the most vulnerable Australians. The \$2.2 billion for more GPs and to improve primary healthcare is a significant investment that will assist Australians have better access to affordable healthcare, said Clare Martin, CEO, Australian Council of Social Service.

National Volunteer Week 2010

MITCH FIFIELD 11/05/10 131N1201

The Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, Carers and the Voluntary Sector, Senator Mitch Fifield, today acknowledged the millions of Australian volunteers for their contribution to local communities. National Volunteer Week 2010, which runs from 10 to 16 May, will promote the value and importance of volunteers with the theme: 'Volunteering: Now more than ever.'

Rudd hires more muscle in gangland budget: Fielding

STEVE FIELDING 11/05/10 131N1206

The Rudd Government has delivered a Melbourne style gangland budget to the Australian people which is all smiles on the outside but beneath the surface is hiding a dark underbelly, according to Family First Leader Senator Steve Fielding.

A healthy budget for seniors

NATIONAL SENIORS ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1207

Older Australians have welcomed the extra \$2.2 billion for healthcare announced in the budget. National Seniors, the nation's peak body for older Australians, has also given a cautious welcome to additional funding to tackle the skill shortage in age care, and measures to help older workers stay in the workforce.

Federal budget - aged care still in waiting

COUNCIL ON THE AGEING 11/05/10 131N1209

The Federal Budget has delivered the aged care commitments already promised as part of the National Health & Hospitals Network, and additional funds for staff development, but all else now waits on the Productivity Commission Inquiry into aged care not due until April 2011, said Ian Yates, Chief Executive of COTA Australia. The biggest disappointment for aged care in the Budget is the lack of any interim or bridging funding for aged care subsidies for 2010/11, while the government awaits the Productivity Commission Inquiry's reports.

Federal Budget in neutral for seniors - the election awaits

COUNCIL ON THE AGEING 11/05/10 131N1210

Apart from the very welcome National Health & Hospitals Network funding initiatives already announced in health care, seniors are neither major winners nor losers in this year's Federal Budget" says Ian Yates, Chief Executive of COTA Australia, the peak organisation representing more than 500,000 older Australians. The major disappointment is that although the Budget delivers the aged care commitments promised as part of the NHHN, and additional funds for staff training and development, it has left aged care funding in a precarious state in 2010/11 while the government waits on the reports of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into aged care - not due until April 2011.

Special Gazette S 69 - Disability Discrimination Act 1992

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1413

Refusal of a Temporary Exemption - the provision by cinemas of open captions for films for people who are deaf or have a hearing impairment and audio descriptions of films for people who are blind or have a vision impairment.

Celebrating our Golden Gurus Volunteers in National Volunteer Week

URSULA STEPHENS 11/05/10 131N1519

Australia's Golden Gurus are playing a major role in National Volunteer Week, Australia's largest celebration of volunteers. Senator Ursula Stephens, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, congratulated the Golden Gurus. Volunteer week provides an opportunity to say thank you to the more than five million Australians who volunteer, Senator Stephens said.

Budget a healthy step towards a skilled, inclusive workforce

BROTHERHOOD OF ST LAURENCE 11/05/10 131N1526

The Brotherhood of St Laurence was encouraged by the significant investments in employment and training as announced in the Federal Budget. Tony Nicholson, Executive Director, said we welcome the Government's focus on improving training opportunities for disadvantaged job seekers in order to promote national productivity. Assisting disadvantaged Australians to gain and remain in mainstream employment is key to enabling them to build a good life for themselves and their families.

You don't build a strong economy on the back of a fractured society - Vinnies

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY 11/05/10 131N1528

The St Vincent de Paul Society has warned the Federal Government of the costs of continuing to neglect the incomes of unemployed people. You don't build a strong economy on the back of a fractured society, said Chief Executive, Dr John Falzon. This Budget fails to heal the fracture. With over 600,000 unemployed Australians, we are still stuck with a Newstart Allowance that is less than half the minimum wage. The OECD describes unemployment benefits as the first line of

defence for those experiencing a job loss. With no real adjustment for unemployment benefits since 1994, these Australians are forced to live below the OECD poverty line.

Families Punished In Budget Cut to Child Care Rebates: Childcare Alliance

CHILDCARE ALLIANCE AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1561

Australia's long day child care providers said children and their cash-strapped families were the losers out of the Federal Budget which saw the Government cut the Child Care Rebate by \$300 per child per year. The Childcare Alliance Australia (CAA), representing 70% of the long day child care sector and the staff who care for more than 400,000 young children, said working families will feel angry, hurt and abandoned by a government that has moved to cut the Child Care Rebate

Investment in 'invisible health workforce' remains out of sight

CARERS AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1618

Despite substantial increased spending on health in the Federal Budget, the government has again failed to address the reality of how care is provided in Australia. Family carers remain unseen. Carers Australia CEO Joan Hughes said, Amid a range of healthcare workforce investment announcements, the government has not addressed the vital role of unpaid family carers. They have been identified by the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission as the 'invisible health workforce' and yet the government has not included measures to better support them.

Delahunty supports Lowan business women - Vic

HUGH DELAHUNTY 11/05/10 131N3502

The Nationals Member for Lowan Hugh Delahunty is calling on local business women to enter the 2010 Telstra Business Women's awards. There are many successful businesswomen in the Lowan electorate who are deserving of the state or national recognition which comes with the award, Mr Delahunty said.

New opportunities for older public housing tenants in the ACT - ACT

JOY BURCH 11/05/10 131N9502

Information sessions will be held to update older public housing tenants on the construction of new, custom-built housing across Canberra. ACT Minister for Housing Joy Burch said 297 new houses were being built especially for older tenants on eight community facility sites at Conder, Macquarie, Curtin, Kambah, Bonython, Chapman, Florey and Rivett as part of the Commonwealth's Nation Building initiative.

FINANCE

Australian Government commences consultation on an investment manager regime

WAYNE SWAN 11/05/10 131N1011

The Rudd Government will start consultation on an investment manager regime (IMR) that will reform and expand Australia's managed funds industry by removing impediments to international investment. These important reforms will build on Australia's growing status as a leading regional financial centre and support growth and jobs in the Australian managed funds industry. Australia's managed funds stood at around \$1.7 trillion at the end of 2009, equal to around 135 per cent of nominal GDP. With one of the largest pools of funds under management in the world, Australia is well placed to build up its position as a leading regional financial centre.

Government responds to Australia as a Financial Services Centre Report

CHRIS BOWEN 11/05/10 131N1013

The Minister for Financial Services, Chris Bowen, said the Government has today responded to the Report of the Australian Financial Centre Forum Australia as a financial centre: Building on our strengths (the Johnson Report). The Government established the Australian Financial Centre Forum (the Forum) in September 2008, as part of its commitment to position Australia as a leading financial services centre. The Forum's report was released on 15 January 2010. The Government response provides in-principle or direct support for nearly all of the Forum's 19 recommendations, including the introduction of an Investment Manager Regime, the establishment of an online regulatory gateway, and the development of an Asia Region Funds Passport. These are important reforms that will enhance Australia's status as a financial services centre and help expand exports and imports of financial services.

Budget positions Australia for future growth

INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1613

The 2010/12 Budget will greatly advance Australia's ability to become a global investment hub, the CEO of the Investment and Financial Services Association (IFSA) John Brogden said. "The Government has adopted the recommendations of the Johnson Report on Australia as a Global Financial Centre and will implement many of them in the budget. "The announcements to reduce Interest Withholding Tax, introduce a new Managed Investment Trust regime and establish a Centre for International Finance and Regulation all advance Australia's standing internationally.

Budget break on IWT - eventually

AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL MARKETS ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1617

Tonight's Budget contains a welcome commitment by the Government to phase-out interest withholding tax on interest paid by banks on foreign borrowings - but not for three years. This was a key recommendation of the Australian Financial Centre Forum report (Johnson Report) into building Australia as a financial centre. It will remove an impediment to the efficient raising of capital off-shore and increase Australia's competitiveness in capital markets. However, the Government should move more quickly to send a positive message about its serious intent to promote Australia as a financial centre. Likewise, quick action is needed to remove the LIBOR cap on deductibility for interest paid on parent funding - the case for which has already been made.

Prospectus relief to help corporate bond market

AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES & INVESTMENTS COMMISSION - ASIC 11/05/10 131N1610

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) has provided class order relief which will help promote the issue of vanilla corporate bonds to retail investors. The ASIC initiatives will simplify the disclosure requirements for certain offers of listed vanilla bonds by allowing such offers to be made with reduced disclosure under a short-form prospectus. The measures will also allow vanilla bonds to be offered under a two-part prospectus, comprising a base prospectus (which may be used for a number of different offers) and a second part prospectus (which will relate to a particular offer). ASIC has also provided class order relief to facilitate offers of convertible notes to wholesale investors.

New credit laws to protect South Australians - SA

GAIL GAGO 11/05/10 131N5100

South Australians will be better protected from dodgy credit brokers under new laws to be introduced in Parliament. Minister Gago said the new legislation, to be brought into effect on 1 July 2010, would put in place a National Consumer Credit Protection Code that will be administered by a single regulator - the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). The new laws

will further protect SA consumers from being exposed to dodgy brokers and inappropriate credit products, Ms Gago said. By having a national licensing scheme for credit providers, those engaged in credit activities will also find it easier because there will be more consistency and clarity in relation to their business.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

2010-11 International Development Assistance Budget

STEPHEN SMITH 11/05/10 131N1124

The Rudd Government will deliver on its election promise to boost Australia's commitment to Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding to 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015-16. The money will be used to help developing countries improve the delivery of basic services, particularly education and health.

Half a billion dollar aid increase should benefit the world's poorest

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT 11/05/10 131N1541

Millions of people could be given a chance to escape extreme poverty as a result of the much needed increase in the Australian aid budget. The 2010/11 budget has received a welcome increase of over half a billion dollars, said the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), the peak Council for Australia's aid and development charities. We welcome the increase in aid funding of \$530 million in 2010/11 which lifts aid from \$3,818 million in 2009/10 to \$4,349 million in 2010/11. This increase responds to the dire need in developing countries where 100 million people have been thrust back into extreme poverty in the past two years as a result of the Global Financial Crisis. Australia has a big role to play in helping them, ACFID Executive Director Marc Purcell said.

Rudd Government delivers on foreign aid spending but falls short on climate change commitments

OXFAM AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1548

This Budget shows the Rudd Government is delivering on its 2007 election commitment on aid spending, but has fallen short of meeting its international climate change commitments, international aid agency Oxfam Australia said. Oxfam Australia Executive Director Andrew Hewett commended the Government for staying on track to keep its 2007 election pledge to increase aid spending to 0.5 per cent of gross national income (GNI) by 2015.

Australian aid budget delivers for world's poor

CARITAS AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1558

Caritas Australia welcomes the Government's budget commitment to increase Australia's Official Development Assistance (ODA) for 2010/11 and strengthen its support for Australian aid and development organisations. Tonight the Rudd Government announced a 9 percent real increase (\$530 million) to Australia's aid program keeping Australia on track to meet its commitment of 0.5 percent GNI by 2015.

HEALTH

Building a Health and Hospital Network for the future

NICOLA ROXON 11/05/10 131N1100

The Rudd Government will put in place the most significant reforms for Australia's health and hospitals system since the introduction of Medicare - to create a National Health and Hospital Network that is funded nationally and run locally. The Budget delivers an additional \$2.2 billion over 4 years - for better access to doctors, especially GP's, an unprecedented level of support and training for nurses and the introduction of a personally controlled electronic health records for every Australian.

Three major reform projects responded to in the 2010-11 Budget

NICOLA ROXON 11/05/10 131N1101

Health Minister Nicola Roxon said the Budget is the culmination of the work of the Government's three key health reform reports and provides \$7.3 billion in new funding to implement their key recommendation.

More comprehensive and convenient GP and primary care

NICOLA ROXON 11/05/10 131N1102

Health Minister Nicola Roxon said the 2010-11 Budget will deliver a massive \$1,2 billion boost to GP and primary health care to deliver real improvements to frontline health services for patients across Australia.

More GP super clinics and extra GP infrastructure

NICOLA ROXON 11/05/10 131N1103

The 2010-11 Budget will deliver \$1.2 billion boost to GP and primary health care including \$355.2 million in building and upgrading GP Super Clinics.

More doctors and more nurses in National Health and Hospitals Network

NICOLA ROXON 11/05/10 131N1104

The Government will invest \$1,2 billion in training and supporting more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals, as part of building a National Health and Hospitals Network. This includes an additional \$523 million investment in Australia's nurses.

Personally controlled electronic health records for all Australians

NICOLA ROXON 11/05/10 131N1105

Health Minister Nicola Roxon said Australians will be able to check their medical history online through the introduction of personally controlled electronic health records, which will boost patient safety, improve health care delivery and cut waste and duplication. The \$466.7 million investment over the next two years will revolutionise the delivery of healthcare in Australia.

Agreements ensure sustainable access to medicines

NICOLA ROXON 11/05/10 131N1106

The Rudd Government will save taxpayers \$2.5 billion over five years through the negotiation of health agreements that will deliver better value for money and continue to provide Australians access to essential medicines.

Quicker access to high quality hospital care

NICOLA ROXON 11/05/10 131N1107

Health Minister Nicola Roxon said the Government will invest more than \$3.5 billion over four years to deliver better public hospital services for all Australians,

World first action on preventative health

NICOLA ROXON 11/05/10 131N1108

The Rudd Government will boost its efforts in preventative health and world leading new action on smoking and other chronic disease risks. Preventative health measures in the Budget include: Tobacco crackdown; Binge drinking campaign; Fighting diabetes and lifting participation in sport; Australian Health Survey; response to the Preventative Health Taskforce.

Building the foundations for better mental health care

NICOLA ROXON 11/05/10 131N1110

The Rudd Government will deliver more youth-friendly mental health services, more mental health nurses, and more support for people with mental illness through a \$175 million package to improve mental health services.

Building a national aged care system

JUSTINE ELLIOT 11/05/10 131N1111

The Rudd Government will build on reforms to aged care that will create a national system that will provide better support for older Australians. The Rudd Government will invest \$907.5 million over four years to deliver more highly qualified aged care workers, more aged care places, more health care services and greater protection for older Australians.

Rudd Government continues to tackle the rural health challenge

WARREN SNOWDON 11/05/10 131N1112

People living in rural and remote Australia will benefit from significant improvements in the delivery of health, hospitals and aged care services under the Rudd Government's health reforms.

Budget with no bite: no dental for pensioners but aged care boost welcome

COMBINED PENSIONERS & SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC 11/05/10 131N1033

Pensioners welcome health and aged care reforms but are disappointed that dental has once again missed the cut, said Charmaine Crowe, CPSA Policy Coordinator. Treasurer Wayne Swan has done nothing to address dental for pensioners in this budget, despite the Rudd Government making an election pledge in 2007 to implement a national dental scheme. Pensioners will not benefit from the 50 per cent tax cut on bank savings because pensioners typically don't pay tax. CPSA welcomes the extra funding for the Complaints Investigation Scheme and the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency.

Budget delivers high strike rate on health

CONSUMERS' HEALTH FORUM AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1036

Today marks the real start of action towards genuine health reform according to Carol Bennett Executive Director of the national peak consumer health body, the Consumers Health Forum. The Federal Budget is the real litmus test of government commitment to health policy because we know that what gets funded usually gets done. After months of political wrangling, we now know from the budget figures that the Rudd Government has a strong commitment to health reform.

With a severe lack of rural workforce measures, this budget really needs a doctor

RURAL DOCTORS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1050

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) said it is very frustrated with the glaring absence of serious measures to boost the rural doctor workforce in today's federal budget. When it comes to real measures to improve access to healthcare in the bush and entice more doctors and other health professionals to rural and remote Australia, this budget is in serious need of a doctor...literally, RDAA President, Dr Nola Maxfield, said. While a number of initiatives in this year's

federal budget are positive for Australia's health system, the Rudd Government is still not focusing on the main game in fixing the rural health crisis - the need for more realistic measures to entice more doctors to work in the bush.

Federal Budget a boon to sustainable aged care

CATHOLIC HEALTH AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1135

Catholic Health Australia welcomed the Federal Government's commitment to improve access, sustainability and quality in aged care.

Measures to train and retain the medical and aged care workforce - including those that have been previously announced - are particularly timely, CHA CEO Martin Lavery said. With an ageing population and an under-supply of medical, aged care and allied health workers, it is important to ensure we have enough qualified people to care for all Australians now and in the future

Transcript of television interview, Sky News

NICOLA ROXON 11/05/10 131N1179

The Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, discussed the health budget - medicare locals, GP Super Clinics and infrastructure spending, e-health, PBS and pharmacy saves.

AMA welcomes substantial investment in health and calls for careful implementation

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1204

The AMA has welcomed the Federal Budget investment of more than \$7 billion to bolster the health system and provide Australians with better access to quality health services. AMA President, Dr Andrew Pesce, said the AMA has been calling for major Government investment in health and tonight's Budget has delivered substantial new funding and reforms within a tight fiscal environment.

Health IT focus needed in Federal Budget

AUSTRALIAN HEALTHCARE AND HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1404

COAG's health reforms will be jeopardized if the Federal Government does not commit to funding and building a national electronic health information infrastructure in the Budget, according to the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association. AHHA welcomes COAG's commitment to a consumer-centered health system which delivers high quality and coordinated care to all. However, currently, Australia simply does not have the health technology infrastructure to deliver COAG's proposed reforms, Ms Prue Power, Executive Director, said.

Public and private sector medical indemnity claims in Australia 2006-07: a summary

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH & WELFARE 11/05/10 131N1408

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report 'Public and private sector medical indemnity claims in Australia 2006-07: a summary' presents data from the combined Medical Indemnity National Collection of public and private sector claims. Data on claims that were current at any time over the period of 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 are included. The report includes the circumstances that gave rise to claims, the medical specialities involved in claims, the people making claims, the size of claims and the length of time they have been open. The publication is available at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10740>

ANU wins US\$100,000 Grand Challenges Explorations grant for HIV vaccine research

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY 11/05/10 131N1409

A researcher from The Australian National University has won a US\$100,000 Grand Challenges Explorations grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a new HIV vaccine that might also lead to vaccine breakthroughs for other major diseases. Dr Charani Ranasinghe from The John Curtin School of Medical Research at ANU is one of 78 grant recipients announced by

the Gates Foundation in the fourth funding round of Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative to help scientists explore unproven ways to improve health in developing countries. The grants in this round were provided to scientists in 18 countries on six continents, selected from almost 2,700 applications.

One million Australians forgotten in the Federal Budget

ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1524

Alzheimer's Australia expressed great disappointment that the Federal Budget did nothing to address the dementia epidemic and the impact it already has on one million Australians, both people with dementia and their families and carers. It is clear that dementia as the major chronic disease of this century is not on the radar of those responsible for health policy. Dementia has been neglected in the COAG discussions and ignored again in the 2010/11 Budget, said Glenn Rees, CEO, Alzheimer's Australia.

Dental hole left by Budget

AUSTRALIAN HEALTHCARE AND HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1525

The gaping hole in dental care remains after the Federal Budget failed to include any funding for public dental services, according to the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA). The AHHA is the peak national body representing public hospitals, area health services, community health centres and public aged care providers.

Aged care workers and residents big winners in Budget 2010

AUSTRALIAN NURSING FEDERATION 11/05/10 131N1527

Ged Kearney, Federal Secretary of the Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) said Budget 2010 had delivered a huge win for aged care nurses, care staff and the residents they care for. The \$132 million aged care workforce package announced by the Treasurer in Budget 2010 ensures nurses will remain front and centre in the delivery of aged care in Australia.

Primary health care organisations - transforming Australia's health care future

AUSTRALIAN GENERAL PRACTICE NETWORK 11/05/10 131N1530

The Australian health system will be transformed to provide better, more responsive care in the community with the introduction of Primary Health Care Organisations (PHCOs), says Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) Chair, Dr Emil Djacic. PHCOs, which will evolve from our Network, will improve access to services, support General Practitioners (GPs) to provide high quality care to their patients and deliver integrated health care, Dr Djacic said.

Budget delivers for Australia's health care future

AUSTRALIAN GENERAL PRACTICE NETWORK 11/05/10 131N1531

Patients can expect better access to General Practitioners (GPs), improved after hours services and a connected health care system as a result of the cash injection into primary health care announced in tonight's Federal Budget, says Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) Chair Dr Emil Djacic. The Budget delivers for patients, it delivers for health care providers and it will deliver a better, more efficient and more effective health system, Dr Djacic said.

No frills Budget leaves aged care in rags

AGED & COMMUNITY SERVICES AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1533

Each year community and residential aged care organisations hold their breath in anticipation of funding to match the cost of the services and accommodation they provide, Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) said. We are again deeply disappointed the Government has failed to address the very immediate funding issues confronting aged care services providers and therefore older Australians. ACSA CEO Greg Mundy said.

Budget will help deliver COAG reforms

AUSTRALIAN HEALTHCARE AND HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1534

The Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) welcomed the additional funding for ehealth and primary care in the Federal Budget but warned that more needed to be done to integrate primary care and hospitals to ensure people with chronic and complex conditions can receive coordinated and comprehensive care. The AHHA is the peak national body representing public hospitals, area health services, community health centres and public aged care providers.

Frilly mental health - real reform missing in this budget!

MENTAL HEALTH CNCL OF AUST 11/05/10 131N1536

The Government called this a 'no frills' Budget - but despite the increased expenditure in health care, mental health has been relegated to a very thin line of lace on the periphery of a substantive new investment mostly into hospital services. The 2010-11 Federal Budget has delivered on the funding commitments promised for mental health through the CoAG Health Reform agreement, but the Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA) is disappointed that there is little else in the way of real reform or investment in mental health.

Budget - landmark support for prevention

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION AUST 11/05/10 131N1537

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) has welcomed the Government's response to the National Preventative Health Taskforce report and funding outlined in the Federal Budget as a landmark in action to support prevention. PHAA President Professor Mike Daube said, For the first time, we have a comprehensive approach to reducing our massive toll of preventable ill health and death, with substantial commitments in the Budget to funding for prevention.

Australia's pharmaceutical industry signs historic agreement with Commonwealth Government

MEDICINES AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1539

Medicines Australia member companies have signed a historic agreement with the Commonwealth Government that will ensure a stable environment for business and continued access to new medicines for all Australians. The agreement delivers savings to taxpayers of \$1.9 billion over five years. It carries a Government commitment that pharmaceutical companies will not be asked to bear any further price-related savings measures before 30 June 2014.

Federal Budget: 'a restraint too far'

ANGLICARE AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1544

The Treasurer's zeal for a 'fiscally responsible' budget has seen Australians living at the margins largely forgotten yet again, says Anglicare Sydney CEO Peter Kell. Aged Care While additional funding for the training of aged care nursing staff is welcome, the funding gap that continues to make residential aged care unsustainable remains, says ANGLICARE Sydney CEO Peter Kell.

Budget 2010 a mixed bag for aged care

AGED CARE AUSTRALIA INC 11/05/10 131N1547

The initiatives to support the future aged care workforce to obtain higher qualifications and provide enhanced career paths is a very positive outcome which, if successful, will support the industry in attracting and retaining staff in the future, said ACAA CEO, Rod Young. However, the failure to address many of the industry's other short and long term issues is disappointing, said Mr Young.

Funding for headspace welcomed

HEADSPACE 11/05/10 131N1550

The announcement in the Federal Budget of additional funding for headspace underlines the Federal Government's commitment to tackling youth mental illness. headspace welcomes the additional \$78.8 million that will deliver up to 30 new youth-friendly mental health services and provide extra funding for the existing 30 headspace sites. This will help a further 20,000 young people with mental health problems each year. The CEO of headspace, Chris Tanti said: The new funding follows through on the government's commitment to, and support of, headspace. Each year, one in four young people will experience a diagnosable mental health problem and this new funding will make significant inroads into addressing the mental health needs of young adults.

Medicines Australia welcomes e-health investment

MEDICINES AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1554

Medicines Australia chief executive Dr Brendan Shaw welcomed the \$466.7 million investment in e-health announced in the Federal Budget. Dr Shaw said the move to electronic records was a critical step towards delivering a fully integrated healthcare system.

Budget: Some good answers, many questions and a few disappointments

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ALLIANCE 11/05/10 131N1556

The Federal Budget has provided clarification of some of the key elements of health reform, but a great deal is still unclear or unknown as far as people in rural and remote areas are concerned. Jenny May, Chairperson of the Alliance, said that the key issue still remains whether people in rural and remote areas can be assured of their fair share of the big ticket items in the health reform agenda such as additional hospital beds, subacute care, and investments in emergency departments and elective surgery.

Damaging grab for cash will export jobs rather than pharmaceuticals

GENERIC MEDICINES INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1557

Australians will be the losers from the Government's damaging \$1.9 billion grab for cash from the pharmaceutical industry, announced in the Federal Budget. The biggest reform of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) since inception was implemented in 2007. In this Budget, the Government has announced additional reform of the PBS, without any regard to the damaging impact on jobs, investments, exports and consumer access to a reliable supply of safe, cost-effective medicines.

Budget Positive For Pharmacy

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUST 11/05/10 131N1621

The Federal Budget is a good one for pharmacy with details of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement showing total funding of \$15.4 billion over the five years, up from \$11.6 billion in the Fourth Agreement, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia says. Importantly this now includes \$660 million for professional services. National President of the PSA, Warwick Plunkett, said the increased funding has primarily been allocated to patient-focussed professional programs and is a direct result of representations made by PSA.

Better access to after hours services signals arrival of PHCOs

AUSTRALIAN GENERAL PRACTICE NETWORK 11/05/10 131N1714

Families will have better access to General Practitioners (GPs) at times of urgent need with the extra \$126 million announced in the Federal Budget for after hours services, Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) Chair Dr Emil Djakic said today. The new GP after hours program signals the arrival of primary health care organisations (PHCOs) on the Australian health scene, Dr

Djakic said. The program gives PHCOs the opportunity to design services that meet the needs of their local communities by facilitating after hours services which best suit their local area.

Budget focus on primary health care teams is a big win for patients

NATIONAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIP 11/05/10 131N1715

A collaboration of 20 peak health organisations has welcomed the Government's 2010-11 Budget as a step toward better health outcomes for Australians. The Commonwealth is investing in primary health care teams, in enabling GPs, nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals to work together to deliver care in the community. Bringing together a team of health professionals with different expertise to work together with the patient is the best way to prevent illness and manage chronic conditions like diabetes. It's the best way to keep people well and out of hospital, said Claire Hewat, Chair of the National Primary Health Care Partnership (NPHCP).

Preventative Health report "slipped under the door"

AUSTRALIAN FOOD AND GROCERY COUNCIL 11/05/10 131N1720

Australia's food and grocery industry is disappointed that the Federal Government slipped its response to the Preventative Health Taskforce under the door on Budget night, the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) said tonight. AFGC Chief Executive Kate Carnell said for a Government that indicated prevention is better than cure, it was disappointing that the Taking Preventative Action report was not a key element of the Budget night announcements.

Aged care initiatives welcomed but let's look beyond the general practice environment

ROYAL COLLEGE NURSING AUST 11/05/10 131N1722

Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA) is pleased the Federal Government has recognised a number of important RCNA identified funding priorities that have been included in this year's Federal Budget. RCNA, Australia's peak professional nursing organisation has welcomed the \$18.7m to trial new models of care to expand and improve the role of nurse practitioners in aged care. RCNA Acting CEO, Dr Marg McLeod says we have lobbied extensively for a national examination of funding options to allow nurse practitioners to manage the health care needs of aged care populations. This is positive development for aged care services and the nursing profession.

Greens join campaigners calling for ban on sun beds - NSW

LEE RHIANNON 11/05/10 131N2502

NSW Greens MP and health spokesperson Lee Rhiannon has called on Premier Kristina Keneally to protect the health of young people in NSW by banning sunbeds in NSW because of the unacceptable risk of melanoma and the failure of operators to meet existing standards. A Greens motion will be debated in Parliament ('Greens push to outlaw unsafe solariums', SMH, page 4 today: <http://tiny.cc/y7hl9>). Ms Rhiannon joined with melanoma survivor, no sunbeds campaigner and young father Jay Allen and the CEO of Melanoma Patients Aust Lisa McFadyen to seek the ban. Mr Allen and Ms McFadyen are meeting with Minister for Health (Cancer) Frank Sartor's office to discuss the issue.

Labor's Penrith health failure: maternity nursing crisis - 421 unfilled shifts - NSW

JILLIAN SKINNER 11/05/10 131N2506

Health Minister Carmel Tebbutt must explain why the Keneally Labor Government is allowing hundreds of nursing shifts in the Nepean Hospital maternity unit to go unfilled, compromising patient care, Shadow Minister for Health Jillian Skinner and Liberal candidate for Penrith Stuart Ayres said. In recent protest rallies the NSW Nurses Association revealed there were 20 full time equivalent positions unfilled in the maternity unit at Nepean Hospital, which amounted to 421 nursing shifts going unfilled.

NSW smoking rates at record low - NSW

FRANK SARTOR 11/05/10 131N2508

Rates of smoking in NSW have reached an all-time low according to new figures released by Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), Frank Sartor. New data from the NSW Health Survey revealed the percentage of people aged 16 and over who smoke 'daily' or 'occasionally' dropped to 17.2 per cent in 2009 - down from 24 per cent when surveys began 12 years ago.

Michelle Beets Memorial Trust Fund - NSW

JILLIAN SKINNER 11/05/10 131N2509

Shadow Minister for Health Jillian Skinner threw her support behind the Michelle Beets Memorial Trust Fund. Michelle Beets was a dedicated nurse of 40 years experience, 25 of them carried out at Royal North Shore Hospital, Mrs Skinner said. This trust fund is a worthy legacy for a woman who dedicated her life to others, she said.

Labor and Coalition vote together to defeat sun bed ban - NSW

LEE RHIANNON 11/05/10 131N2700

Greens MP and health spokesperson Lee Rhiannon said that while the defeat of the Greens motion to ban sunbeds on the combined vote of Labor and the Coalition parties was a set back the campaign to outlaw what the World Health Organisation has described as "carcinogenic to humans" would continue.

Neville inspects mental health Common Ground - Vic

LISA NEVILLE 11/05/10 131N3504

The first 25 residents of the Elizabeth Street Common Ground development have been identified in an important milestone for the innovative new social housing project. Minister for Mental Health Lisa Neville inspected the site where work is well underway. We understand Victorians are concerned about the health and welfare of people who do not have a home, that is why we have committed \$37.2 million to the Elizabeth Street Common Ground project, Ms Neville said.

\$7.4 million healthy heart boost for Northern Hospital - Vic

DANIEL ANDREWS 11/05/10 131N3505

Residents with heart problems in Melbourne's growing northern suburbs will have even better access to vital cardiac services thanks to a \$7.4 million Brumby Labor Government boost. Visiting the Northern Hospital, Health Minister Daniel Andrews said the new investment would fund the construction of two extra cardiac catheterisation laboratories and an eight-bed recovery area.

Victorians say thanks for 20 years of cancer support - Vic

DANIEL ANDREWS 11/05/10 131N3512

The State Government paid tribute to the Cancer Council Victoria's Information and Support Service for providing dedicated support and important information to patients and their loved ones for 20 years. Taking part in celebrations to mark the service's 20th birthday at the Melbourne Town Hall, Health Minister Daniel Andrews said the Council's information service had helped thousands of Victorian cancer patients and their families during the past two decades.

Qld Health pays workers who've left - Qld

MARK McARDLE 11/05/10 131N4200

More problems with the Bligh Government's health pay disaster have emerged with former Ipswich Hospital staff getting regular pays despite having resigned from Queensland Health more than two months ago. LNP health spokesman Mark McArdle said reports that several former Qld Health staff were still being paid, despite having left Ipswich Hospital, showed the depths of the disaster.

Bringing epilepsy out of the shadows

EPILEPSY QUEENSLAND 11/05/10 131N4504

Epilepsy Queensland is calling on the Emerald, Rockhampton and Mackay communities and surrounding areas to help bring epilepsy out of the shadows. We all know someone with cancer. We all know someone with heart disease. We may not realise it but we also know someone with epilepsy. However, many of the 86,000 Queenslanders affected by the world's most common serious brain disorder keep it hidden.

HOUSING & PROPERTY

Nation building to expand productive economic capacity

WAYNE SWAN 11/05/10 131N1002

The Treasurer, Wayne Swan, and the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, said the 2010-11 Budget builds on the Government's impressive infrastructure record with major new investments, including a \$1 billion investment in rail and our Infrastructure Fund worth more than \$5.6 billion over the next decade. We are investing some \$37 billion in vital economic infrastructure such as road, rail and ports. This includes some \$22 billion of investment in rural and regional transport infrastructure.

Increasing flexibility of the First Home Saver Accounts

WAYNE SWAN 11/05/10 131N1008

The Treasurer, Wayne Swan, and the Minister for Housing, Tanya Plibersek, announced the Government will help Australians trying to realise the dream of home ownership by allowing First Home Saver Account-holders more flexibility to buy their first home. To increase the flexibility of FHS Accounts and help Australians buy their first home sooner, the Government will allow savings in an FSA Account to be paid into an approved mortgage after the end of a minimum qualifying period, rather than requiring it to be paid to a superannuation account.

Vital link between infrastructure and economic development lost in Budget

ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1040

The Chief Executive of Engineers Australia, Peter Taylor, said that the initial promise offered by the establishment of Infrastructure Australia shortly after the Rudd Government was elected and its critical role in the third tranche of GFC stimuli has not been realised in the 2010-11 Budget. While we welcome the creation of a new infrastructure fund, the allocation of \$5.6 billion over five years hardly scratches the surface of the massive task ahead. A more pleasing infrastructure announcement was the injection of \$1 billion to fund rail projects to boost productivity. The continuation of planning for the intermodal precinct Moorebank, west of Sydney, and the associated integrated transport systems to relieve urban congestion and bottlenecks were also indicators of Government intent to make rail a more attractive alternative than road for the heavy freight tasks.

\$2,35 billion boost for local and community infrastructure

ANTHONY ALBANESE 11/05/10 131N1160

The Minister for Infrastructure, Anthony Albanese, said local and regional communities across Australia will benefit from the Rudd Government's record \$2.35 billion investment in local infrastructure and services in this year's Budget. The Government's 2010-11 budget invests funding into local communities to support jobs today while building the infrastructure they need for the future. This funding will be provided through the following programs: \$2 billion in Financial Assistance Grants for local government infrastructure and services - almost \$100 million more than

last year's entitlement and the highest funding on record; and \$350 million for local roads through the Roads to Recovery program. Over five years, this program will deliver \$1.75 billion.

Northern Territory continues to benefit from record investment

ANTHONY ALBANESE 11/05/10 131N1161

The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, said the Rudd Labor Government unprecedented investment in the road infrastructure within Northern Territory continues unabated, with a further \$166 million being provided in the 2010-11 Budget. The aim of our infrastructure building program is simple: to build more sustainable communities and a more productive national economy, one positioned to take full advantage of the global economic recovery. In the case of the Northern Territory, we've boosted spending on roads by 85 per cent over the life of the current Nation Building Program, bringing our total investment to \$641 million.

South Australia continues to benefit from record investment

ANTHONY ALBANESE 11/05/10 131N1162

The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, said the Rudd Labor Government's unprecedented investment in the road and rail infrastructure within South Australia continues unabated, with a further \$404 million being provided in the 2010-11 Budget. The aim of our infrastructure building program is simple: to build more sustainable communities and a more productive national economy, one positioned to take full advantage of the global economic recovery. In the case of South Australia, we've boosted spending on roads and on rail by 128 per cent over the life of the current National Building Program, bringing our total investment to \$2.7 billion.

Western Australia continues to benefit from record investment

ANTHONY ALBANESE 11/05/10 131N1163

The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, said the Rudd Labor Government's will build on it unprecedented investment in Western Australia's road and rail infrastructure with a further \$404 million being provided in the 2010-11 Budget. The Government's investments in Western Australia's critical economic infrastructure will help build more sustainable communities and a more productive national economy better positioned to take full advantage of the global economic recovery. in the case of Western Australia, the Rudd Government has boosted spending on roads and rail by 69 per cent over the life of the current Nation Building program, bringing our total investment to \$3.5 billion.

NSW & the ACT continue to benefit from record investment

ANTHONY ALBANESE 11/05/10 131N1164

The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, said the Rudd Labor Government's unprecedented investment in the road and rail infrastructure within NSW and the ACT continues unabated, with a further \$1.5 billion being provided in the 2010-11 Budget. The aim of our infrastructure building program is simple: to build more sustainable communities and a more productive national economy, one positioned to take full advantage of the global economic recovery. In the case of NSW and the ACT, we've boosted spending on roads and on rail by 130 per cent over the life of the current National Building Program, bringing our total investment in both jurisdictions to \$12.3 billion.

Queensland continues to benefit from record investment

ANTHONY ALBANESE 11/05/10 131N1165

The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, said the Rudd Labor Government's unprecedented investment in the road and rail infrastructure within Queensland continues unabated, with a further \$1.2 billion being provided in the 2010-11 Budget. The aim of

our infrastructure building program is simple: to build more sustainable communities and a more productive national economy, one positioned to take full advantage of the global economic recovery. In the case of Queensland, we've boosted spending on roads and on rail by 126 per cent over the life of the current National Building Program, bringing our total investment to \$8.6 billion.

Victoria continues to benefit from record investment

ANTHONY ALBANESE 11/05/10 131N1166

The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, said the Rudd Labor Government's unprecedented investment in the road and rail infrastructure within Victoria continues unabated, with a further \$1 billion being provided in the 2010-11 Budget. The aim of our infrastructure building program is simple: to build more sustainable communities and a more productive national economy, one positioned to take full advantage of the global economic recovery. In the case of Victoria, we've boosted spending on roads and on rail by 181 per cent over the life of the current National Building Program, bringing our total investment to \$7.9 billion.

Tasmania continues to benefit from record investment

ANTHONY ALBANESE 11/05/10 131N1167

The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, said the Rudd Labor Government's unprecedented investment in the road and rail infrastructure within Tasmania continues unabated, with a further \$169 million being provided in the 2010-11 Budget. The aim of our infrastructure building program is simple: to build more sustainable communities and a more productive national economy, one positioned to take full advantage of the global economic recovery. In the case of Tasmania, we've boosted spending on roads and on rail by 65 per cent over the life of the current National Building Program, bringing our total investment to \$800 million.

Building infrastructure

INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIPS AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1532

The budget has welcome measures on freight rail and investment but in spite of challenging economic times, the Federal Government needs to spell out its long term role in partnering with the states to invest in nation building infrastructure says Infrastructure Partnerships Australia – the nation's peak infrastructure body. There is no doubt that some of the states will be disappointed that the next round of nationally significant projects were not funded in the budget, said IPA Executive Director Brendan Lyon. The budget contains welcome measures like \$1 billion for the national freight rail network and some interesting measures aimed to stimulate retail investment in major projects.

Infrastructure and skills - invest for the future

CONSULT AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1545

Consult Australia welcomes the Government's aims to expand the economy's productive capacity and invest in key skills and infrastructure, but the 2010-11 Budget does not go far enough. Consult Australia supports a continuing reduction in the deficit, and applauds the aim to return the budget to surplus three years ahead of schedule. But we believe this can, and should be achieved in parallel with investments essential to help ensure our ongoing economic prosperity. Investments in infrastructure, renewable energy and skills are supported, but are not sufficient to meet our existing and future demands.

Budget 2010: surpluses, sustainability positive for property

PROPERTY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1623

The Rudd Government's third Budget welds key elements of the Henry and managed investment trust reviews with a promise to deliver a swifter transition to budget surpluses, according to the Property Council of Australia. While the budget lacks the infrastructure spending fireworks of

previous years, it commits to a \$5.6 billion State Infrastructure Fund and fast tracks several existing projects," says Property Council chief executive, Peter Verwer. The budget focuses on a smooth transition from GFC stimulus spending to stronger private investment.

Budget for recovery

HOUSING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1706

The Housing Industry Association believes the federal budget provides a plan for economic recovery and sensibly avoids the usual temptation of pre-election big spending commitments. HIA's Managing Director, Shane Goodwin, said that while the Federal Budget is economically sensible and provides some useful incentives for households, businesses and workforce skills, it contained little to address Australia's chronic housing shortage and worsening affordability.

Federal Budget does not address long-term solutions for housing affordability

REAL ESTATE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1717

The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) is disappointed that the Government has not considered long-term solutions to address the issue of housing affordability in the Federal Budget. The REIA proposed two recommendations for consideration in its pre-budget submission which were aimed at long-term solutions for housing affordability in Australia. The first was to index the grant to median house price movements annually and the second was to allow first home buyers access to voluntary superannuation contributions.

New Jobs And Homes To Result From New Burwood LEP - NSW

TONY KELLY 11/05/10 131N2003

Around 2,800 new jobs are expected to be created and an additional 2,400 dwellings constructed as a result of the approval of a new local environmental plan (LEP) for the Burwood town centre. Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the LEP replaces existing planning controls which date back to 1979. The LEP contains provisions to provide 70,000 square metres of new commercial floor space in areas near Burwood Railway Station, as well as providing encouragement for residential development on the fringe of this centre, the Minister said.

Victoria keeps on blooming - Vic

RICHARD WYNNE 11/05/10 131N3506

Housing Minister Richard Wynne announced the winners of the Brumby Labor Government's Victoria In Bloom gardening contest. Victoria In Bloom is a fantastic way for us to acknowledge those public and social housing tenants who are helping to make their homes greener and more pleasant places, Mr Wynne said.

24,300 job bonanza from extra first home owner bonuses - Vic

JOHN BRUMBY 11/05/10 131N3508

Victoria's home builders are set to be big winners from the 2010 State Budget with an analysis of the new and extended first home bonuses for new home construction predicting an extra 24,300 Victorian jobs in the next financial year. The Premier, John Brumby, said the Housing Industry Association predicted a jobs boom for builders, which is in addition to the 30,000 jobs flowing from the \$9.5 billion investment in job-creating infrastructure in the 2010 State Budget.

BDAV welcomes Government action on sustainable development - Vic

BUILDING DESIGNERS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA 11/05/10 131N3518

The Building Designers Association of Victoria has welcomed the range of planning and development initiatives announced by the Brumby Government as part of the 2010-11 Victorian Budget. The BDAV congratulates the Victorian Government on their action with respect to

developing sustainable communities across Victoria and the focus on infill development in metropolitan Melbourne, BDAV President Darryl Crumpton said.

Territory icon collects Global Sustainability Award - NT

KARL HAMPTON 11/05/10 131N7500

Minister for the Environment Karl Hampton congratulated NT firm Troppo Architects on winning the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture. Founding partners Phil Harris and Adrian Welke will present their work to the Cite de l'Architecture in Paris and collect the prestigious prize, the first Australian architects to do so.

IMMIGRATION & MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

New funding for passports and consular awareness

STEPHEN SMITH 11/05/10 131N1123

Foreign Affairs Minister Stephen Smith said the Government will continue to improve services for the increasing number for Australians travelling overseas through new funding in the 2010-11 Budget for passports and consular awareness. \$100.8 million has been provided over 6 years to deliver a new passport issuing system.

Government sharpens focus on skilled migration program

CHRIS EVANS 11/05/10 131N1129

Immigration Minister Senator Chris Evans said the Government will sharpen the focus of the skilled migration program on areas of skills shortage but will maintain the current overall size of the migration program.

Humanitarian Program

CHRIS EVANS 11/05/10 131N1130

Immigration Minister Senator Chris Evans said the Australian Government will continue its commitment to providing refuge for the world's most vulnerable people by again accepting 13,750 people through its humanitarian program in 2010-11. The overall size of the migration program will also remain unchanged.

Strengthening Australia's border security

CHRIS EVANS 11/05/10 131N1131

The Australian Government will invest \$1.2 billion to bolster Australia's border security with a range of measures including eight new border patrol vessels and strengthened aviation security.

Now it's Hotel Queensland for asylum seekers

STEVE FIELDING 11/05/10 131N1405

Family First Senator Steve Fielding said the Rudd Government's credibility to stem the flood of asylum seekers has been shattered after it was revealed the Government has been secretly housing them in a hotel in Queensland. Senator Fielding says that by keeping asylum seekers in four star hotels will only encourage more boats to come our way. First it was Hotel Christmas Island, now it's Hotel Queensland, Senator Fielding said.

Human Rights Centre calls for withdrawal of prime-time attack on asylum-seekers

EDMUND RICE CENTRE 11/05/10 131N1504

The Edmund Rice Centre (ERC) has condemned the Federal Liberal Party's television ad campaign broadcast in Western Australia and Queensland on May 9 - calling for an immediate withdrawal of the campaign. This ad campaign is a prime-time attack on asylum-seekers, and can only be regarded as another low in Australian politics, said ERC Director, Phil Glendenning.

Australia and Australians have moved on from being frightened by images of extensive arrows coming from our north to represent invading hordes, Mr Glendenning said.

Migration program still unclear (2010-2011 Federal Budget Response)

MIGRATION INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1555

The Migration Institute of Australia (MIA) welcomes the Government's measured approach to the Migration Program within the context 2010-2011 Federal Budget, and compliments the Minister for his recognition that foreign skilled labour is an important driver of economic growth. However, this Budget does little to alleviate the uncertainty surrounding the migration program and the lack of confidence in Australia as a destination for highly skilled people overseas. The patchwork changes made to the skilled migration program over the past year have left many thousands adrift without consistency or regularity.

INDUSTRY

Rudd Government continues to invest in forest resources

TONY BURKE 11/05/10 131N1134

Agriculture Minister Tony Burke said the Rudd Government will continue to support Australia's forest and wood products industries to boost productivity and grow export markets.

Extra funding for textile, clothing and footwear innovation

KIM CARR 11/05/10 131N1170

The Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr, said more companies will be able to access the Government's Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) Strategic Capability Program, which helps companies plan for the future by funding projects focused on innovation. This year's Budget provides an additional \$5 million in 2010-11 for the program, bringing the total value to \$35 million over five years. The program will now also be able to support smaller projects, with the eligibility threshold reduced from \$1 million to \$500,000.

New engineering sector recruitment service draws wide and fast interest

INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1202

The launch of the recruitment service engteam.com.au has drawn wide and fast interest with more than 1200 engineering professionals and over 40 employers registered within days of the launch of the innovative service on Thursday 6 May. The engteam.com.au service has been established by the peak professional body for the engineering profession, Engineers Australia, in response to growing needs across the profession to build skilled engineering teams. A further increase in the existing shortages of engineers in Australia is expected over the next five years with an estimated 75,000 engineers retiring and only about 45,000 graduates coming through our tertiary institutions.

New engineering sector recruitment service draws wide and fast interest

ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1041

The launch of the recruitment service engteam.com.au has drawn wide and fast interest with more than 1200 engineering professionals and over 40 employers registered within days of the launch of the innovative service on Thursday 6 May. The engteam.com.au service has been established by the peak professional body for the engineering profession, Engineers Australia, in response to growing needs across the profession to build skilled engineering teams.

Police bust biggest illegal DVD movie burning racket this year

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION AGAINST COPYRIGHT THEFT 11/05/10 131N1205

On 10 May, Victoria Police from Altona North Regional Response Unit (RRU) raided a residence in Yarraville in Melbourne's south-west with a warrant to uncover a drug manufacturing laboratory.

Instead they discovered a massive haul of over 30,000 illegal DVD movies with an estimated street value of \$300,000. The haul also included a sophisticated illegal DVD manufacturing lab consisting of 117 DVDR burners, 8 computers and 5 printers. The burning operation was capable of producing nearly 3 million illegal discs a year.

Budget to turn around on strong economy plus a focus on skills for the future

MASTER BUILDERS AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1553

Master Builders Australia, the peak association for the building and construction industry, welcomes the Government's Budget strategy which demonstrates responsible fiscal management including an early return to surplus, a boost for skills training, additional skilled migration places and enhancements to the home saver account scheme. In line with Master Builders' recommendations in its Pre-Budget Submission, the Budget is predicated on strong fiscal discipline with a plan to return the Budget to surplus within three years and decrease public debt which should take pressure off interest rates and assist a private sector economic recovery.

Broken Hill to get "desert" film studio - NSW

IAN MACDONALD 11/05/10 131N2501

The Keneally Government will provide \$1 million towards construction of a new desert film studio in Broken Hill to support the region's growing film industry, which will see production of the latest Mad Max film later this year, Regional Development Minister Ian Macdonald said. The Minister said the new studio will strengthen Broken Hill's blossoming film and creative arts industry and generate jobs for the region.

ICT

National Broadband Network

STEPHEN CONROY 11/05/10 131N1119

The Rudd Government is providing additional funding to deliver the National Broadband Network (NBN) that will boost productivity and transform Australian lives, improve education and health service delivery and connect cities, regional and rural centres across Australia. The Government will provide \$15 billion over four years to 2013-14 for continued support of the NBN implementation.

Minister appointed to Global Broadband Commission

STEPHEN CONROY 11/05/10 131N1511

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Senator Stephen Conroy has been appointed by the United Nations as a founding member of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations' specialised agency for communications, made the appointment in Geneva as it announced the establishment of a top level Broadband Commission for Digital Development.

ACT leads the nation with internet usage: ABS

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS 11/05/10 131N1508

The ACT continues to lead the nation as the biggest users of both home computers (88%) and the internet (82%), according to a report released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The number of households in the ACT with home internet access more than tripled from 1998 to 2009. Over the same period, the ACT maintained the highest proportion of home internet connectivity of all states and territories. In 2008-09, nearly all (92%) of internet connected ACT households used broadband, with only 8% using dial-up.

INSURANCE

IAG warns shareholders of unsolicited share offers

INSURANCE AUSTRALIA GROUP 11/05/10 131N1500

Insurance Australia Group Limited (IAG) warns its shareholders they may receive unsolicited offers for their IAG ordinary shares which significantly undervalue them. IAG does not endorse these offers. A company trading as Hassle Free Share Sales Pty Ltd has been contacting holders of IAG ordinary shares to make an unsolicited offer for those shares, at a value which is significantly lower than the price at which they are currently trading on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX).

LEGAL

Strengthening Australia's national security capacity

ROBERT MCCLELLAND 11/05/10 131N1150

The Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, said the Rudd Government will invest over \$500 million to further strengthen Australia's national security capacity. Ensuring national security is the highest responsibility of any government. This \$500 million investment is a key part of the first ever coordinated national security budget which invests a total of \$4.3 billion in national security, border protection, aviation security and supporting the Australian Defence Force.

Additional \$38.5 million to combat organised crime

ROBERT MCCLELLAND 11/05/10 131N1151

The Government will invest an additional \$38.5 million to combat organised crime in Australia, Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, and Minister for Home Affairs, Brendan O'Connor announced. The Prime Minister's first National Security Statement identified organised crime as a significant national security threat and a continuing and growing national challenge which is estimated to cost the community more than \$15 billion each year.

Additional \$154 million for legal assistance services

ROBERT MCCLELLAND 11/05/10 131N1152

The Rudd Government will invest an additional \$154 million over four years in legal assistance programs to improve access to justice in the community. The Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, said that the investment would play a key role in ensuring disadvantaged Australians have the means to resolve disputes early before they escalate and become entrenched. The additional funding will be provided from July 1 2010, and will include an additional: \$92.3 million over four years for legal aid; \$34.9 million over four years for Indigenous legal services, and \$26.8 million over four years for community legal services programs.

Countering violent extremism in our community

ROBERT MCCLELLAND 11/05/10 131N1153

The threat of violent extremism will be targeted by a \$9.7 million package of measures announced by the Government. Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, said that the Government remains committed to building a strong and resilient community able to resist the development of violent extremism and terrorism on the home front.

Strengthening Australia's border security

ROBERT MCCLELLAND 11/05/10 131N1154

The Australian Government will invest \$1.2 billion to bolster Australia's border security with a range of measures including eight new border patrol vessels and strengthened aviation security. The measures underscore the Government's commitment to securing Australia's borders and airports,

screening incoming passengers who may be a security risk, and boosting our engagement with our regional partners. Protecting Australia's borders from threats of terrorism, people smuggling, organised crime, including the trafficking of illicit goods and illegal foreign fishing, is a top priority for investment by the Rudd Government.

Leading Australian arbitration body welcomes major government reform

SPEAKER IN PRECIS 11/05/10 131N1507

The President of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA), Doug Jones AM, has welcomed the decision by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General to adopt uniform national laws on domestic arbitration Agreement on New Model Commercial Arbitration Bill. "This is a great result as it will position Australia favourably in the global business arena." says Professor Jones, who also heads Clayton Utz's International Arbitration and Major Projects Group.

Erosion in support for families - just the beginning

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP SERVICES AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1542

Family Relationship Services Australia is extremely disappointed with the Australian Government's cut to family counselling in the 2010 Federal Budget. Family Counselling assists people to resolve their family relationship issues. It prevents family breakdown and reduces family conflict - particularly during separation. It also helps families adjust when separation occurs which is critical to the wellbeing of children over the long-term, said Samantha Page, FRSA Executive Director.

Legal assistance sector funding welcomed

LAW COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1546

The Law Council has said it welcomed the \$154 million injection into the legal assistance sector. Law Council President Glenn Ferguson said he was very pleased with the additional resources being directed into this chronically underfunded area. All Australians have a fundamental right to access legal advice and services, regardless of their means and the Law Council and its constituent bodies have been calling on Federal Governments to address the underfunding of the legal assistance sector for well over a decade so we are pleased with this outcome, Mr Ferguson said.

Family Law Amendment Regulations 2010 (No. 1)

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1045

The Regulations amend the Family Law Regulations 1984 to provide rules for the service of documents abroad in court proceedings under the Family Law Act 1975. The amendments are consistent with the Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters, done at The Hague on 15 November 1965.

The Regulations are available at:

[http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/706094A520F5EC58CA25771F00031626/\\$file/0925503A100215EV.pdf](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/706094A520F5EC58CA25771F00031626/$file/0925503A100215EV.pdf)

The Explanatory Statement is available at:

[http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/9BBAAE41766D06ECA25771F000315FC/\\$file/F2010L01220.pdf](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/9BBAAE41766D06ECA25771F000315FC/$file/F2010L01220.pdf)

Vale Jeff Shaw - NSW

LAW SOCIETY NSW 11/05/10 131N2005

The passing of solicitor and former NSW Attorney General and Supreme Court Justice Jeff Shaw last night will be felt by many in the NSW legal community. Mary Macken, President of the Law Society of NSW, said Jeff Shaw will be sadly missed.

ICAC survey shows local government more vulnerable to corruption than state agencies - NSW

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION 11/05/10 131N2100

The most recent Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) research into the NSW public sector indicates that local councils face a wider range of corruption risks than state agencies, but appear less likely to use the management controls important to sound corporate governance, making them more vulnerable to corruption. The Commission's Profiling the NSW Public Sector II Report 3: Differences between local and state government, released at an ICAC outreach program in the Central West, finds that this arises from the number of high-risk functions councils perform, and the business processes used to conduct these functions.

Death of the Hon Jeff Shaw QC - NSW

NEW SOUTH WALES BAR ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N2201

The President of the New South Wales Bar Association, Tom Bathurst QC, has expressed his deep regret at news of the death of the Hon Jeff Shaw QC, former New South Wales Attorney General and Justice of the Supreme Court.

Vale Jeff Shaw - NSW

JOHN HATZISTERGOS 11/05/10 131N2503

I knew Jeff Shaw for many years. He was a man of humility, compassion and principle, who possessed a great intellect and sense of justice. His fine legal mind and commitment to justice made him an outstanding Attorney General and Minister for Industrial Relations, NSW Attorney General, John Hatzistergos said. In his time at the bar, Jeff Shaw became renowned as a learned counsel, a persuasive advocate and a formidable opponent and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1986.

Ministerial statement on Jeff Shaw - NSW

KRISTINA KENEALLY 11/05/10 131N2507

NSW Premier, Kristina Keneally, said as Members of this House we should understand, more than usual, the importance of great legal thinkers in our society. Preserving the democratic rule of law requires a balance between legislation and interpretation, in which the legal profession and judiciary play a role, just as critical as the legislature itself. NSW today has lost one of its finest legal minds the former Supreme Court Judge and NSW Attorney General, Jeff Shaw.

ACTU pays tribute to Jeff Shaw

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS 11/05/10 131N2511

ACTU Secretary Jeff Lawrence has expressed sadness with the passing of Jeff Shaw, former New South Wales attorney general. Jeff Shaw made an enormous contribution over many years to the Australian labour movement. He leaves a lasting legacy in industrial relations law and in reforming the New South Wales legal system.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Rural and regional investments to keep communities strong

ANTHONY ALBANESE 11/05/10 131N1168

The Minister for Infrastructure, Anthony Albanese, said the 2010-11 Budget will inject a further \$3.8 billion into rural and regional communities to be delivered through greater infrastructure investment and better targeted industry support. The Rudd Government has been determined to ensure regional Australia shares in the prosperity of a growing economy and its industries remain in a strong position to take advantage of emerging opportunities in the global marketplace.

Norfolk Island law reform report

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 11/05/10 131N1522

Federal Parliament's External Territories committee has presented its report on the Inquiry into the Territories Law Reform Bill 2010. The Bill will amend the Norfolk Island Act 1979 (Cwlth) to implement significant reforms aimed at improving governance structures and strengthening accountability mechanisms for Norfolk Island. The Bill will also amend the Christmas Island Act 1958 (Cwlth) and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955 (Cwlth) to provide a vesting mechanism for powers and functions under Western Australian laws applied in the Indian Ocean Territories.

Why strip planning powers if the intention is not to do favours for Labor mates? - NSW

SYLVIA HALE 11/05/10 131N2505

Cessnock Greens Councillor James Ryan has accused Planning Minister Tony Kelly of adopting a 'double standard' in threatening to remove planning powers from Cessnock Council. Minister Tony Kelly has given vague and ill-founded reasons for threatening to remove Council's planning powers, said Councillor Ryan. Sylvia Hale MLC, Greens spokesperson on planning, expressed her concern at the loss of local control over planning.

MINING & MINERALS

2010-11 Budget: Minerals Council of Australia

MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1037

The Minerals Council of Australia said the 2010-11 Budget relies on strong commodity prices and exports, a mining-led recovery in private investment and higher company tax receipts to accelerate deficit reduction and to fund new spending initiatives. Treasury is relying on a 14.4 per cent boost in the terms of trade in 2010-11, an 8 per cent rise in commodity exports and a 20 per cent lift in engineering investment driven by the mining sector to improve the budget bottom line. The taxes (both royalties and corporate tax payments) have bolstered Commonwealth and State revenues, the profits have been re-invested to underpin new mine and infrastructure expansions, strong jobs growth has strengthened and revitalised regional communities, while suppliers and service providers have seen their businesses in all States and Territories expand to cater for a growing industry.

Super Resources Tax Consultation Panel

MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1415

The Minerals Council of Australia said The Australian minerals resources industry is ready to engage in genuine good-faith consultation with Government on reform of Australia's resource taxation. The terms of reference for consultation with the Resource Tax Consultative Panel outlined, however, are too limited. In particular, the Government has indicated that the panel will "not be consulting on... the key parameters determined by the Australian Government". In other words, the consultation panel has been prevented from considering fundamental elements of the proposed new tax including the 40 per cent rate, the definition of 'super profit', whether existing projects should be covered, and whether the tax should apply at a differential rate to different commodities. A consultative process where all the key parameters are off the table is not a genuine consultation.

Mining resource super-profits tax

AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE 11/05/10 131N1509

The Australia Institute disputes the Minerals Council of Australia's claim in its new advertising campaign that the mining industry's contribution to government revenues has been \$80 billion over the past decade. Our analysis shows that the mining industry in fact pays a lower average tax rate

than Australian industry as a whole. Using a broad measure of profits, the industry gross operating surplus, shows that the \$80 billion contribution of the mining industry averages out at a corporate tax rate of only 19 per cent over the past decade. For Australian industry as a whole the comparable figure is a corporate tax rate of 24 per cent of profits.

We will all pay mining tax

JOHN WILLIAMS 11/05/10 131N1523

The Federal Government's super tax on resource companies is a tax on every Australian, according to The Nationals Senator for New South Wales John Williams. Senator Williams said people should not be fooled into believing the Prime Minister is robbing the rich to give to the poor because if the tax goes ahead, many Australians will be poorer for it. He has cited the case of Unimin Lime which has a plant at Attunga near Tamworth.

Mining Bill threatens property rights - NSW

NSW FARMERS 11/05/10 131N2200

The NSW Farmers' Association says the Mining and Petroleum Legislation Amendment Bill 2010 will take away farmers' right to privately enforce the environmental conditions of mining exploration licences.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Government delivers on transparency and accountability

TANNER LINDSAY 11/05/10 131N1128

The Rudd Government has continued to deliver on its commitment to provide more information to taxpayers on Government spending. Minister for Finance and Deregulation Lindsay Tanner said the 2010-11 Budget built on the Government's Operation Sunlight reforms, establishing a new bar in budget transparency and accountability.

Bill to reform Electoral Act - SA

JOHN RAU 11/05/10 131N5501

Proposed legislation to amend the Electoral Act will be introduced to Parliament on Thursday, May 13. Attorney-General John Rau said the Bill will address two matters - online sites and the use of how to vote cards. My predecessor Michael Atkinson promised before the election to repeal references in the Electoral Act 1985, which would compel Internet bloggers to provide their details when commenting on election matters.

RETAIL & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Registering business names to be made easy

CRAIG EMERSON 11/05/10 131N1172

The Minister for Small Business, Craig Emerson, said red tape will be cut saving small business an estimated \$1.5 billion over eight years by letting business owners register their business names just once instead of in up to eight different states and territories. The Government will invest \$125.2 million over four years in a national system of registering business names. It is one of the 27 areas of regulatory reforms identified by COAG, designed to move Australia towards a seamless national economy.

Small business mediation services to become faster and simpler

CRAIG EMERSON 11/05/10 131N1173

Almost 100,000 Australian small businesses covered by three mandatory codes of conduct will benefit from \$2.7 million worth of support for early intervention in disputes with other businesses in the same industry. The funding would allow the introduction of early dispute resolution services for businesses operating under the Franchising Code of Conduct and the Horticulture Code of Conduct, Small Business Minister Craig Emerson said. Dr Emerson said early intervention would save time and money for businesses in dispute, and is part of the Government's commitment to strong economic management. This investment will also fund continuing early dispute resolution for businesses operating under the Oilcode, which covers petroleum refiners/marketers, wholesalers, distributors, and retailers.

Federal Budget - no rabbit out of federal budget hat

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RETAILERS ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1552

The Federal Government had no rabbits to pull out of its hat delivering a low key budget designed to keep the engine of the economy turning over, Australian National Retailers Association Chief Executive Margy Osmond said. While there are few thrills for business in the Budget - it's solid approach to reeling in the deficit and containing government spending will give some comfort to Australia's largest employers. Cuts in company tax are obviously very welcome in difficult times for retail.

Budget: nothing new for small businesses, retailers need incentives now not in two years

AUSTRALIAN RETAILERS ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1721

Peak retail industry body the Australian Retailers Association (ARA) said the 2010 Federal Budget has disregarded the engine room of the economy, with only 'old news' initiatives announced for small business tonight. ARA Executive Director Russell Zimmerman said retailers who have been overburdened with regulatory changes would be disappointed they have not been recognized in tonight's budget announcement - they need a boost now, not in two years time.

Ghost Town Tax is no road out of deficit

UNITED RETAIL FEDERATION 11/05/10 131N1513

Scott Driscoll, National President of peak national industry body, the United Retail Federation has condemned the notion that the Super Profits Tax proposed by the Rudd Government is any path out of massive government debt. Grade 11 economics students realise that increasing the tax take on a target reduces the base to draw from, said Mr Driscoll. Targeted businesses either constrict operations or find opportunities elsewhere. We can't afford to let the miners look elsewhere or the small business and retail sector will pay the price for ill conceived policy, businesses will close and thousands of jobs will be lost.

Big support for regional small businesses - Vic

JOE HELPER 11/05/10 131N3516

Victoria's 150,000 regional small and medium-sized businesses are well placed to take advantage of an upturn in economic conditions, Small Business Minister Joe Helper said. Mr Helper and the Victorian Government's Small Business Advisory Council met in Torquay for the council's quarterly meeting, as guests of council member and Torquay resident, Sharon Guest-Wallace.

RURAL & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Building a stronger biosecurity system for Australia

TONY BURKE 11/05/10 131N1132

Agriculture Minister Tony Burke said the Rudd Government has committed \$346.8 million to maintain tough biosecurity measures which help to protect against exotic pests and diseases and to continue reforms to strengthen our biosecurity system.

Drought reform trial; current support continues across Australia

TONY BURKE 11/05/10 131N1133

Agriculture Minister Tony Burke said the 2010-11 Budget allocates \$420.3 million to deliver on the Rudd Government's commitment to continue drought support for farmers currently receiving assistance.

Budget another lost opportunity for regional Australia

WARREN TRUSS 11/05/10 131N1707

Regional Australians must be wondering why they have again been ignored in the third Rudd Budget, yet still have to pay their share of the cost of Labor's mammoth borrowing program which amounts to \$700,000,000 a week for the next three years. The Leader of The Nationals, Warren Truss, said there was no new money for roads, more cutbacks for agriculture, a giant new tax on mining, nothing much for regional health and no hope or vision for a more productive economy.

Whatever happened to Australia's nation building agenda?

NATIONAL FARMERS FEDERATION 11/05/10 131N1035

We weren't expecting much and the Treasurer didn't disappoint, is the blunt assessment of the Federal Budget from National Farmers' Federation (NFF) President David Crombie. Predictably the Government is staking a claim to economic responsibility, but where is the investment in Australia's future? While the Rudd Government is going to great pains to convince everyone of its fiscal prudence, the fact remains that major reforms are still needed to push Australia's economy towards long-term growth. We recognise the Government's commitment to pilot drought reform and infrastructure funding, particularly rail, but a long list of important issues were not tackled tonight. Smart long-term nation building investment is needed to kick the economy into top gear.

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Amendment Regulations 2010 (No. 1)

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1042

The Regulations amend the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Regulations 1995 to declare a number of product classes to be or not to be agricultural or veterinary chemical products.

The Regulations are available at:

[http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/76D29A057A3AB3AFCA25771F00040238/\\$file/1001162A100312EV.pdf](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/76D29A057A3AB3AFCA25771F00040238/$file/1001162A100312EV.pdf)

The Explanatory Statement is available at:

[http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/19D42E5012D638B1CA25771F000400BE/\\$file/F2010L00976.pdf](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/19D42E5012D638B1CA25771F000400BE/$file/F2010L00976.pdf)

Five irrigation modernisation tenders recommended for funding - NSW

STEVE WHAN 11/05/10 131N2204

Five irrigators have been recommended for financial support to help modernise their farm irrigation infrastructure in the first round of funding for the NSW Sustaining the Basin: Border Rivers-Gwydir pilot project, NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Steve Whan, said. Minister Whan said 49

irrigators in the Border Rivers and Gwydir catchments had expressed an interest in tendering for funding and 21 tenders were received.

Rock lobster fishery closure for Abrolhos Islands after fishing target reached - WA

NORMAN MOORE 11/05/10 131N6505

Commercial rock lobster fishing in Western Australia's A zone fishery around the Abrolhos Islands has been closed in a bid to preserve the fishery for the future. The move follows last week's announcement of the closure of C zone - which stretches from Augusta to Leeman, south of Geraldton. Fisheries Minister Norman Moore said that A zone fishers, like their C zone counterparts, had reached their total allowable catch for the 2009-10 fishing season, due to close on June 30.

SOCIAL & MORAL

Jewish Museum redevelopment to preserve rich history - Vic

PETER BATCHELOR 11/05/10 131N3503

The Brumby Labor Government announced it will provide \$400,000 to the Jewish Museum of Australia to create a new gallery and an online learning portal. Arts Minister Peter Batchelor joined Member for Prahran Tony Lupton to announce the funding for the St Kilda-based museum. These are two exciting and transformative projects for the Jewish Museum of Australia and that's why we are pleased to contribute \$400,000, Mr Batchelor said.

MIFF wins 2010 Voltaire Award - Vic

LIBERTY VICTORIA 11/05/10 131N3511

Liberty Victoria is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2010 Voltaire Award is the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF). The award is made annually for distinguished contribution to free speech. Past winners include Julian Burnside AO QC and Kate Durham, Margaret Pomeranz, Richard Ackland, Stephen Mayne and Get Up! Liberty President Michael Pearce SC said MIFF earned the award by its courageous stand last year against both the Chinese Government and the filmmaker Ken Loach.

Spirit of state revealed in Queensland Week program - Qld

ANNA BLIGH 11/05/10 131N4508

Premier Anna Bligh unveiled a jam-packed Queensland Week program to mark Queensland's annual celebration of its statehood. The Premier said this year's Queensland Week program, running from 29 May to 6 June, would provide opportunities for Queenslanders to enjoy the best the state has to offer, as well as reflect on the state's achievements and what it truly means to be a Queenslanders.

SPORT & RECREATION

\$325 million boost to sport and getting more Australians active

KATE ELLIS 11/05/10 131N1109

The Rudd Government will boost the number of Australians participating in sport and drive Australia's continued sporting success through the delivery of \$324.8 million ingoing funding.

Brumby loses a billion dollars on the pokies

NICK XENOPHON 11/05/10 131N1518

The Victorian Government's poker machine license auction has been an abject failure, raising at least a billion dollars less than expected according to Independent 'No Pokies' Senator Nick

Xenophon. Premier Brumby took a gamble and like so many poker machine players, he lost, Nick said. It's estimated Tattersalls and Tabcorp would have been willing to pay between two and three billion dollars for the right to exclusively operate Victoria's poker machines for the next ten years, excluding those in Crown Casino.

NSW Government funding boost for biennale - NSW

VIRGINIA JUDGE 11/05/10 131N2504

Arts Minister Virginia Judge has launched the 17th Biennale of Sydney with the help of a \$1.8 million funding injection from the NSW Government. Ms Judge said the funding includes an extra \$400,000 that will be allocated in next month's State Budget to allow the festival to go ahead.

Geelong West Oval to get major sports upgrade - Vic

JAMES MERLINO 11/05/10 131N3509

Resident football clubs at Geelong West Oval will benefit from a redevelopment to the grandstand thanks to a \$60,000 Brumby Labor Government funding boost. Sports Minister James Merlino joined Member for Geelong Ian Trezise at the Oval to announce funding towards the \$420,000 project to build new player and umpire change rooms.

Ballarat to host one-off world cycling classic - Vic

JAMES MERLINO 11/05/10 131N3513

Some of the biggest names in world cycling will race through the streets of Ballarat in an elite road Classic leading up to the UCI Road Cycling World Championships this September. Sports Minister James Merlino said the one-off Herald Sun World Cycling Classic Ballarat - to be held in Ballarat on Sunday, 26 September - will consist of two races including an elite men's 130-kilometre and women's 90-kilometre race held over a 16-kilometre circuit.

Gaming entitlement auction breaks duopoly - Vic

TONY ROBINSON 11/05/10 131N3515

The gaming machine duopoly that has existed in Victoria since 1994 has been broken, with the Brumby Labor Government carrying out Australia's first gaming machine entitlement auction, the Minister for Gaming, Tony Robinson, said. Mr Robinson said the Gaming Machine Entitlement allocation process concluded late Monday, 10 May, raising \$981 million which would be mostly directly towards health, with any remaining funds to be directed to bushfire preparation.

Premier congratulates Qld-linked players named in the World Cup Squad - Qld

ANNA BLIGH 11/05/10 131N4203

Premier Anna Bligh congratulated players with a Queensland connection named in the Socceroos World Cup squad.

Nominations closing soon for Queensland Premier's Literary Awards - Qld

ANNA BLIGH 11/05/10 131N4501

Writers across the country have less than two weeks left to put pen to paper and enter the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards for a chance to win a slice of \$225,000 in prize money and gain national recognition. With prize money offered across 14 categories, the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards remains one of the richest, most prestigious and diverse awards programs of its kind in Australia.

Minister opens new harness racing facilities at Pinjarra - WA

TERRY WALDRON 11/05/10 131N6501

Construction of a new \$2.9million pavilion at the Pinjarra Paceway is on track with a funding boost from the Liberal-National Government. Racing and Gaming Minister Terry Waldron launched the

work in Pinjarra. He said it was an example of the Liberal-National Government's Royalties for Regions Grant Scheme enabling decision making about regional infrastructure to be made by the local communities themselves.

Volunteers help to deliver unique experience of Pompeii - WA

JOHN DAY 11/05/10 131N6503

More than 160 people will volunteer for about 2,000 shifts during one of the most prestigious cultural events ever to visit Perth - A Day in Pompeii, on show at the Western Australian Museum from May 21 until September 5. Culture and the Arts Minister John Day said National Volunteer's Week provided a timely opportunity to recognise the important contributions volunteers made to the State's arts scene.

NT place to be this dry season - NT

PAUL HENDERSON 11/05/10 131N7501

The Chief Minister announced the top end would see the Australian Sprintcar Championship coming to Darwin from May 27 to 29, in another boost to the Territory's bumper Dry Season events calendar. The Dry Season is now officially here and we have a fantastic calendar of events coming up right across the Territory.

Work starts on Tuggeranong outdoor stage - ACT

JON STANHOPE 11/05/10 131N9500

The Tuggeranong community can look forward to a new outdoor stage in the Tuggeranong Town Park for events and festivals, with works to be completed in August 2010, Chief Minister and Minister for the Arts and Heritage Jon Stanhope announced. Mr Stanhope said work had started on the \$200,000 stage, which would take about four months to complete. He said the stage was a 2008 election commitment and a response to representations from the people of Tuggeranong for a permanent performance space in the Tuggeranong Town Park.

SUPERANNUATION

Sustaining the Superannuation Complaints Tribunal's capabilities

CHRIS BOWEN 11/05/10 131N1015

The Minister for Superannuation, Chris Bowen, said the Rudd Government will increase the funding for the Superannuation Complaints Tribunal (SCT) over the next four years to ensure that it continues to meet its statutory responsibilities to resolve consumer complaints in a manner that is fair, economical, informal and quick. From 2010-11 until 2013-14, the SCT will receive additional funding of \$1.5 million per annum, totalling \$5.9 million. The additional funding will maintain consumer and industry confidence in the SCT's ability to deliver its expected outputs, Minister Bowen said.

SPAA welcomes Budget change to Commissioner discretion on excess contribution tax

SELF MANAGED SUPER FUNDS PROFESSIONALS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED
11/05/10 131N1616

The Self-Managed Super Fund Professionals' Association of Australia (SPAA) has welcomed amendments to the superannuation legislation that allow the Commissioner of Taxation to exercise discretion on excess contributions tax before an assessment is issued. While this is a positive step forward, SPAA continues to urge the government to do more to reverse the extreme penalties that exist for all superannuation members who inadvertently breach the cap. SPAA chief executive Andrea Slattery said the amendment corrects a major flaw with the current system.

Super - still the preferred long-term savings vehicle

ASSOCIATION OF SUPERANNUATION FUNDS AUSTRALIA LTD 11/05/10 131N1620

ASFA - The Voice of Super is pleased that the Federal Budget continues to endorse the central role of superannuation and savings in the economy. Super funds justifiably retain their tax preferred status compared to other savings vehicles. The Budget, together with the Government's response to the Henry Report, provides both certainty and incentives for working Australians to save for their immediate needs and for their retirement.

Budget sets all Australian on a path to a healthier retirement

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SUPERANNUATION TRUSTEES 11/05/10 131N1705

The Federal Budget- which outlines measures to lift compulsory super to 12% as well as other key superannuation reforms - recognises the importance of promoting a savings culture among all Australians. This budget sets all Australians on the path for a much more comfortable retirement and recognises the key role that a healthy savings pool plays in strengthening our economy and providing much-needed funds for infrastructure investment, said Fiona Reynolds, CEO of the Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees.

TAXATION

July 2010 tax cuts to help with cost of living pressures and strengthen our economy

WAYNE SWAN 11/05/10 131N1004

The Treasurer, Wayne Swan, said the Rudd Government will deliver its third round of tax cuts from 1 July this year to help millions of Australian families with cost of living pressures and reward their hard work. From 1 July 2010: the Low Income Tax Offset will increase from \$1,350 to \$1,500; the 30 per cent threshold will increase from \$35,000 to \$37,000; the 38 per cent marginal tax rate will decrease to 37 per cent; and the amount of income a senior Australian eligible for the Senior Australian Tax Offset (SATO) can earn before they pay income tax or the Medicare Levy will increase from \$29,867 to \$30,685 for singles, and from \$25,680 to \$26,680 for each member of a couple.

Increase in the Medicare Levy and Medicare Levy Surcharge low-incomes thresholds

WAYNE SWAN 11/05/10 131N1005

To ensure that Australians on low incomes remain exempt from the Medicare Levy, the Government will increase the Medicare Levy low-income thresholds, Treasurer Wayne Swan said. The Medicare Levy low-income threshold will increase to \$18,488 (up from \$17,794) for singles, and to \$31,196 (up from \$30,025) for couples. This means that singles or couples with incomes in the 2009-10 income year below these new thresholds will be exempt from the Medicare Levy. For families, the additional amount of threshold for each dependent child or student will also be increased to \$2,865 (up from \$2,757).

Standard deduction to increase tax returns for 6.4 million Australians

WAYNE SWAN 11/05/10 131N1006

The Treasurer, Wayne Swan, said the Rudd Government will make it easier to fill out tax returns by offering a standard tax deduction that is expected to deliver a bigger tax return for 6.4 million Australians. From 1 July 2012 the Government will provide individual taxpayers with an optional standard deduction of \$500 in lieu of claiming work-related expenses and the cost of managing their tax affairs. The standard deduction will be increased to \$1,000 from 1 July 2013. Taxpayers with expenses above the standard deduction will be able to continue to claim those expenses when lodging their tax return under the existing rules.

Reforms to boost business credit and encourage saving

WAYNE SWAN 11/05/10 131N1007

The Treasurer, Wayne Swan, and the Minister for Corporate Law, Chris Bowen, said the Rudd Government will boost competition in business lending with important reforms to make it easier for businesses to borrow directly from retail investors and reduce their reliance on borrowing from banks. The Government will also provide a substantial new tax incentive to promote personal saving, by encouraging Australians to consider savings products like corporate bonds as a way to diversify their investments.

Improving incentives for saving to benefit 5.7 million Australians

WAYNE SWAN 11/05/10 131N1010

The Treasurer, Wayne Swan, said the Rudd Government will encourage Australians to save and help boost our national savings with a new tax incentive that cuts the tax paid on up to \$1,000 of interest income from a range of savings products. From 1 July 2011, the Government will provide individuals with a tax discount equal to 50 per cent on up to \$1,000 of interest earned, including on deposits held with any bank, building society or credit union, as well as bonds, debentures or annuity products. This means that for a person earning an average pre-tax interest rate of 6 per cent, the discount would apply up to a savings balance of just over \$16,500.

Changes to film tax offsets boost Australian film industry

NICK SHERRY 11/05/10 131N1016

The Assistant Treasurer, Senator Nick Sherry, and the Minister for the Arts, Peter Garrett, announced the Rudd Government will make important changes to eligibility requirements for film tax offsets that will provide a boost for the Australian film industry. The changes will make Australia a more attractive destination for significant film making and enable more Australian businesses, particularly small businesses, to benefit from the film tax offsets. The Government will remove the current requirement under the Location Offset for productions valued between \$15.0 million and \$50.0 million to spend a minimum of 70 per cent of their production budgets in Australia. The Post, Digital and Visual Effects Production (PDV) threshold will also be reduced, from \$5.0 million to \$500 000. Both changes will apply from 1 July 2010.

Reforms to capital gains tax to make it easier for businesses to restructure

NICK SHERRY 11/05/10 131N1017

The Assistant Treasurer, Senator Nick Sherry, said the Government will introduce legislation to make amendments to the capital gains tax (CGT) provisions to improve the ability of businesses to restructure. The Government will: extend the CGT rollover for the conversion of a body to an incorporated company; make the share sale facility exclusion more broadly available for CGT rollovers; and allow CGT demerger relief for certain demerger groups that currently cannot access the relief. These changes will allow more businesses to restructure and are in line with the Government's commitment to promoting flexibility for business, the Assistant Treasurer said. This measure is part of the Government's commitment to strengthening the Australian economy and maximising the opportunities of Australian businesses.

Further reductions in GST compliance costs for business

NICK SHERRY 11/05/10 131N1018

The Assistant Treasurer, senator Nick Sherry, announced The Government will reduce compliance costs for businesses through a package of GST reform measures to help business owners spend less time wading through red tape. The key components of the plan are: restructuring the margin scheme provisions; significantly increasing the threshold above which businesses need to interact with the financial supply provisions from \$50,000 to \$150,000 of input tax credits delivering

compliance savings for many more small businesses; introducing measures to protect the GST base by reducing opportunities for businesses to inappropriately take advantage of the reduced input tax credit concessions by bundling services; and allowing small businesses accounting for GST on a cash basis to claim input tax credits upfront in relation to hire purchase arrangements.

Changes to GST law to assist Australian boat builders to boost export sales

NICK SHERRY 11/05/10 131N1019

The Assistant Treasurer, Senator Nick Sherry, said the Rudd Government will amend the GST legislation to help Australian recreational boat builders compete with international manufacturers. The GST law will be amended to allow boats used for recreational purposes to be sold in Australia GST-free if the boat is exported by the purchaser within 12 months and only used for recreational purposes whilst in Australia. Currently the law requires that boats be exported within 60 days. These changes will allow Australian boat builders to overcome disadvantages they face relative to foreign competitors, who can more easily sell boats for export tax-free, the Assistant Treasurer said.

New regulatory framework to further improve transparency in charitable sector

NICK SHERRY 11/05/10 131N1020

The Assistant Treasurer, Senator Nick Sherry, said the Rudd Government will introduce a new regulatory framework to improve the integrity of public ancillary funds and further boost confidence in the philanthropic sector. Many community and fundraising foundations are set up as public ancillary funds and hold deductible gift recipient (DGR) status, meaning all donations made to the funds are tax deductible. The new framework for public ancillary funds will provide trustees with greater certainty as to their obligations and provide donors and the charitable sector with greater confidence that donations are being used effectively. The proposed regulatory framework would take effect from 1 July 2011 and will include legislative guidelines similar to those introduced for private ancillary funds from 1 October 2009.

Change to benchmark interest rate for capital protected borrowings

NICK SHERRY 11/05/10 131N1021

The Assistant Treasurer, Senator Nick Sherry announced investors in capital protected borrowings will be the big winners of a \$28 million initiative to adjust the benchmark interest rate on these borrowings from 11 May 2010. The new benchmark interest rate from tonight will be the Reserve Bank indicator rate for standard variable housing loans plus 100 basis points. The adjusted benchmark interest rate better reflects the additional credit risk borne by lenders for the cost of capital protection that is paid on a deferred basis. Lifting the benchmark interest rate by 100 basis points will allow borrowers to allocate a smaller proportion of the expenses on the borrowings on costs for capital protection, which is not deductible if on a capital account. The measure will apply to capital protected borrowings entered into from 7:30 pm (AEST) 13 May 2008.

New rules to improve calculation of income tax liabilities from consolidated groups

NICK SHERRY 11/05/10 131N1022

Assistant Treasurer Senator Nick Sherry, said the Government will amend income tax law to improve the operation of rules relating to the calculation and collection of income tax liabilities from consolidated groups and multiple entry consolidated groups (MEC groups). For consolidated groups and MEC groups, the changes will clarify that: Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) liabilities can be recovered under the liability for payment rules in the income tax law, with effect from 11 May 2010; and an entity which pays its contribution amount under a tax sharing agreement can leave a group clear of any further liability, with effect from the 2004-05 income year. Additional changes for MEC groups will ensure that: the liability for payment rules apply to those groups, with effect from 11 May; and where there is a change in the provisional head company during an income year, any

PAYG instalments paid by the former provisional head company on behalf of the group are attributed to the group from 1 July 2008.

Positive step towards simplifying tax time

TAXATION INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1529

The 2010-11 Federal Budget takes a positive step towards simplifying tax time for millions of Australians. The Taxation Institute of Australia strongly supports the Budget announcement that the Government will make it easier to fill out tax returns by offering taxpayers a standard tax deduction and calls for the Government to continue along the path of simplification. President David Williams said the optional standard deduction of \$500 in lieu of claiming work-related expenses and the cost of managing tax affairs from 1 July 2012, increasing to \$1,000 from 1 July 2013, is a long overdue measure that's good for compliance and reduces costs by making the system simpler.

Australia will need to wait for tax reform

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS 11/05/10 131N1538

The National Institute of Accountant commented that Australia will need to wait for serious tax reform following the release of the federal budget. The budget confirmed that tax reform has been put on the back burner while small business continues to be overwhelmed by regulatory burden. NIA chief executive officer Andrew Conway said that small business needs immediate tax relief.

Tax compliance easier for millions: Institute of Chartered Accountants

INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNT 11/05/10 131N1611

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia (the Institute) said measures aimed at simplifying individual tax returns announced in the 2010-2011 Federal Budget package represent the start of a serious tax reform agenda for the country. "Today's announcement of a standard \$500 tax deduction alongside a simplified personal tax return process, will deliver average compliance cost savings of around \$300 a year for over 5 million Australians who currently visit a tax agent every year," said the Institute's Tax Counsel, Yasser El-Ansary. "Although the jury is out, as to whether or not, a \$500 deduction will be enough to entice most taxpayers to tick the box and accept the offer."

Review of the Application of GST to Cross-Border Transactions

THE BOARD OF TAXATION 11/05/10 131N1622

On 12 May 2009, the then Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs, the Hon Chris Bowen MP, asked the Board of Taxation to undertake a review of the application of the goods and services tax (GST) to cross-border transactions and to report its recommendations to the Government by the end of February 2010.

Government delivers promised land tax relief - nearly 75,000 will no longer pay land tax - SA

KEVIN FOLEY 11/05/10 131N5101

Treasurer Kevin Foley will introduce a bill to deliver the significant land tax relief outlined in the 2009/10 Mid Year Budget Review. Over 100,000 South Australian property owners will benefit in reforms that will see almost two thirds of current land tax payers no longer liable to pay any land tax at all next financial year and reductions in the bills of remaining land tax payers of up to \$1,245. The relief package will also introduce a policy to index thresholds by the average movement in land value from 2011-12, providing ongoing relief from bracket creep over the long term.

TOURISM

One day left for Australians to be part of new tourism campaign

TOURISM AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1512

Australians have just one more day to be part of Tourism Australia's new global campaign - There's nothing like Australia - and share their inside knowledge of Australian holiday experiences on www.nothinglikeaustralia.com. With the promotion closing at midnight tomorrow (12 May 2010), Australians need to act now if they want to join thousands of others in promoting their country to the world. Entrants will also be eligible to be one of the winners chosen from each state and territory to win an Australian holiday valued at \$5,000. An overall winner will then be selected to win the Ultimate Australian Holiday valued at \$25,000.

Opportunity lost for tourism

TOURISM & TRANSPORT FORUM AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1704

The tourism industry is concerned the failure to maintain Tourism Australia's current funding levels means that a golden opportunity to capitalise on Australia's tourism's strengths has been lost, according to Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF). TTF Managing Director Christopher Brown said industry would be disappointed that Tourism Australia would not have its full budget available to support its new tourism campaign There's Nothing Like Australia.

Tourism accreditation scheme is just the ticket

AUSTRALIAN TOURISM EXPORT COUNCIL 11/05/10 131N1716

The Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) has welcomed the Federal Government's Budget announcement of a \$5.5million commitment into a new National Tourism Accreditation Framework (NTAF), saying the move would help maintain Australia's position as one of the most desirable tourism destinations in the world. ATEC Managing Director Matt Hingerty said the four-year funding plan for the NTAF would help put quality control front and centre on the national tourism agenda, a move that ATEC, the peak industry body representing the \$26billion Australian inbound tourism industry, has been advocating for years.

Airline deals drive bumper March for NSW Tourism - NSW

JODI MCKAY 11/05/10 131N2000

Minister for Tourism Jodi McKay said new data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics suggests the NSW Government's partnerships with global airlines are paying off for tourism in the State. Ms McKay said that the results show March 2010 was a bumper month for international visitors to NSW, with a 6.8 per cent increase on March 2009. This is more great news for tourism in NSW. March 2010 was another strong month for overseas visitors to the State, with NSW welcoming 40 per cent of overseas visitors to Australia.

TRADE

TradeStart Program

SIMON CREAN 11/05/10 131N1125

Trade Minister Simon Crean said the Rudd Government will help develop and expand trade and investment opportunities for Australian companies by investing \$14.4 million over four years to continue the TradeStart program.

Nominations for Export Awards now open - Delahunty - Vic

HUGH DELAHUNTY 11/05/10 131N3500

Nationals Member for Lowan Hugh Delahunty is encouraging export businesses to apply for the Governor of Victoria Export Awards for recognition in the local and international marketplace. It is important for exporters in the Lowan electorate, big or small, new or experienced to apply for the awards, Mr Delahunty said.

Premier leaves for trade mission in United Arab Emirates and the Shanghai World Expo - Vic

JOHN BRUMBY 11/05/10 131N3517

Showcasing Victoria's trade and economic strengths to the world and attracting potential new investment in the State will be central to Premier John Brumby's eight-day trade mission to China and the United Arab Emirates. Mr Brumby will visit Shanghai for Victoria Week at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo and said it would provide unprecedented opportunities for local businesses to strengthen their links with Victoria's largest trading partner and attract investments that create local jobs.

TRANSPORT

Nation building rail investment

ANTHONY ALBANESE 11/05/10 131N1156

The Minister for Transport, Anthony Albanese, said the Rudd Government will invest a further \$1 billion in the government-owned Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to upgrade even more of its 10,000 kilometre network- work, supporting up to 1,500 jobs. This \$1 billion funding commitment will allow us to keep modernising the interstate rail freight network so we can expand Australia's capacity and make the most of the economic opportunities ahead.

Budget boost for historic transport reforms

ANTHONY ALBANESE 11/05/10 131N1157

The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, said the Rudd Government will provide an additional \$8.3 million to progress sweeping reforms to the way governments regulate our \$49 billion transport sector. From 2013, maritime safety, rail safety and heavy vehicles will be regulated nationally. This is a historic reform that will improve safety, simplify the compliance task for transport operators and boost national income by up to \$2.4 billion a year. These important reforms to the transport sector are part of the Government's plan to strengthen our economy and secure our future.

Budget delivers an unprecedented boost to aviation

ANTHONY ALBANESE 11/05/10 131N1158

The Minister for Transport, Anthony Albanese, said the Rudd Government will invest an extra \$237.2 million to bolster public confidence in the safety of air travel and to put in place the infrastructure needed to support continued growth and jobs in this vital industry. The new funding upholds the Government's commitments to aviation security and expands on the measures outlined in the nation's first ever Aviation White Paper which was published last December. The White Paper delivers a comprehensive, long-term plan for an industry which supports more than half a million jobs, delivers essential services to remote communities and contributes \$6.3 billion to the national economy.

Nation building: biggest ever roads program turns three

ANTHONY ALBANESE 11/05/10 131N1159

The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, said the rollout of the biggest road building program in the nation's history is approaching its halfway point, with a further \$4.2 billion committed in the 2010-11 Budget to begin, progress or complete a long list of large and smaller scale projects. Upon coming to office, the Rudd Labor Government doubled road spending and set about building a national network equal to the needs of the 21st century - one which supports social mobility and higher national productivity. All up, our Nation Building investment is \$27.7 billion over six years (2008-09 to 2013-14) to maintain and upgrade the nation's highways and major arterials, with the states and territories contributing a further \$6 billion.

Budget boost for transport safety in the region

ANTHONY ALBANESE 11/05/10 131N1169

The Minister for Transport, Anthony Albanese, said the Rudd Government will provide an extra \$14.5 million for Australian transport safety authorities to continue working with their Indonesian counterparts to make the skies and waterways within our region even safer. Since 2008, Australia has been helping to strengthen the capacity of Indonesian authorities to regulate and enforce higher safety standards within their aviation and maritime sectors. This has involved the training of their safety inspectors and accident investigators as well as joint search and rescue exercises.

Steady as she goes road budget

AUSTRALIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1208

Australia's peak motoring body, the Australian Automobile Association (AAA), acknowledged the ongoing commitment to building road infrastructure as part of the Federal Government's "steady as she goes" budget. AAA's Director of Technical Services, Craig Newland, said the Government's commitment for the Nation Building Program to bring on, progress or complete a range of projects would make Australian roads safer. While there is no new money in this budget for road infrastructure projects, the Government has maintained its commitment to ongoing development of the Australian national road network to meet the needs of Australian motorists, their families and all road users, Mr Newland said. Further, the provision of \$1 billion to the Australian Rail Track Corporation to modernise and upgrade the interstate rail freight network should see freight off the roads, which is also good news for motorists.

Transport experts and industry welcome Budget

BUS INDUSTRY CONFEDERATION 11/05/10 131N1543

The Federal Government's continuing commitment to passenger transport has been welcomed by transport experts and the Australian bus and coach industry. Transport economist Professor John Stanley of the University of Sydney welcomed the rollout of the record \$4.5 billion investment in passenger transport from the 2009 budget including the Noarlunga Seaford Extension, and early construction works on the Gold Coast Light Rail.

Warrego Highway upgrades need funding

ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF QUEENSLAND 11/05/10 131N1551

Major highway upgrades supporting Queensland's resources industries should be prime candidates for the State Infrastructure Fund, announced in the budget, according to RACQ. The state's peak motoring organisation was disappointed but not surprised by the lack of genuinely new road project spending earmarked in a belt-tightening budget.

Support for nationally significant infrastructure

AUSTRALIAN LOGISTICS COUNCIL 11/05/10 131N1718

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) supports investment in nationally significant infrastructure that demonstrably increases the efficiency of the national freight task, CEO of the Australian Logistics Council, Michael Kilgariff, said in response to the Commonwealth Budget. ALC is the peak national body for Australia's freight T&L industry, and aims to influence government policy decisions to ensure that Australia has a safe, secure, reliable, sustainable and competitive freight industry.

2010 Budget delivers benefits for trucking operators

AUSTRALIAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATION 11/05/10 131N1719

Australia's trucking operators will benefit from the Government's \$4.2 billion investment in roads in the 2010-11 Budget, the Chief Executive of the Australian Trucking Association, Stuart St Clair, said this evening. Mr St Clair said the Budget confirmed the Government was well on the way toward investing \$27.7 billion over six years into maintaining and upgrading Australia's highways and major arterials.

Aviation Transport Security Amendment Regulations 2010 (No. 1)

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1043

The Regulations amend the Aviation Transport Security Regulations 2005 to amend the rules surrounding cockpit access.

The Regulations are available at:

[http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/E09DE3FD6E6CB2B8CA25771C001C89F2/\\$file/1004761A100318EV.pdf](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/E09DE3FD6E6CB2B8CA25771C001C89F2/$file/1004761A100318EV.pdf)

The Explanatory Statement is available at:

[http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/0CE370563C84CE0ACA25771C001C895F/\\$file/F2010L01200.pdf](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/0CE370563C84CE0ACA25771C001C895F/$file/F2010L01200.pdf)

Civil Aviation Amendment Regulations 2010 (No. 1)

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1044

The Regulations amend the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988 to provide for the carriage and use requirements, and to certain circuit procedures, at and in the vicinity of non-towered aerodromes.

The Regulations are available at:

[http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/8A8FB4DA5B5B5C17CA25771E00824159/\\$file/0810391A100212EV.pdf](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/8A8FB4DA5B5B5C17CA25771E00824159/$file/0810391A100212EV.pdf)

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[http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/3666DB18D176F8C2CA25771E008240B8/\\$file/F2010L01205.pdf](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/3666DB18D176F8C2CA25771E008240B8/$file/F2010L01205.pdf)

Unplanned M5 East Tunnel closures average once a fortnight - NSW

BARRY O'FARRELL 11/05/10 131N2500

The M5 East Tunnel is unexpectedly closed on average once a fortnight, delaying thousands of commuters, NSW Opposition Leader and Shadow Minister for Western Sydney Barry O'Farrell revealed. Freedom of Information documents obtained by the NSW Liberals & Nationals show over the last two years, the M5 East Tunnel has had 61 unplanned closures totalling more than 186 hours. Government documents show the tunnel was closed on 16 occasions for unplanned

maintenance, four for air quality problems, two for control system failures and once each for boom gate failures, ventilation system problems, and communication failures.

New England Highway upgrade to go ahead - Qld

CRAIG WALLACE 11/05/10 131N4506

The upgrading of the New England Highway from Hampton to Geham will go ahead in a modified form, Main Roads Minister Craig Wallace announced. Mr Wallace released the findings of an independent review, conducted by consultancy firm Conics, and has asked his department to implement the report recommendations stating safety must come first on the New England Highway.

Revised highway upgrade plan cautiously welcomed - Qld

ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF QUEENSLAND 11/05/10 131N4509

The RACQ has cautiously welcomed the State Government's decision to proceed with the much-delayed upgrade of the New England Highway between Hampton and Geham. RACQ's general manager for external relations, Gary Fites, said that if high levels of safety could be achieved with the removal of fewer trees than originally planned, it would be a good outcome for road users, the local community and the environment.

Gungahlin residents to benefit from \$10.8 million road upgrades - ACT

JON STANHOPE 11/05/10 131N9501

Gungahlin's newest residents in Bonner and Forde will benefit from a \$10.8 million upgrade of Mulligans Flat Road, including new cycle lanes, roundabouts and pedestrian underpasses, with work commencing in the coming weeks. Chief Minister and Minister for Transport, Jon Stanhope, said the Stage 1 works include the reconstruction of 2.5 kilometres of Mulligans Flat Road from Jessie Street in Forde towards the NSW border. Two roundabouts will also be constructed to provide access to the new residential estates of Bonner 1b, Bonner 2 and future access to Bonner Stage 4 and Forde Stage 2.

WORKPLACE RELATIONS

Paid parental leave

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY 11/05/10 131N1046

The Parliamentary Library released a Background Note examines development of the debate, the limited spread of PML, and concludes with a comparison of the paid parental leave schemes which the major political parties appear to be committed to taking to the 2010 federal election. The publication is available at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/bn/eco/PaidParentalLeave.pdf>

Red Cliffs man ordered to back-pay former airport worker \$123,000

FAIR WORK OMBUDSMAN 11/05/10 131N1403

The Fair Work Ombudsman said a Red Cliffs man has been ordered to back-pay one of his former employees more than \$123,000, following a prosecution by the Fair Work Ombudsman. Melbourne Magistrates' Court has instructed Kenneth Chiswell to back-bay the worker \$123,035, plus interest of \$2827, within three months. Chiswell previously operated a sole-trader aircraft refuelling business at Mildura Airport, in North-West Victoria. Magistrate Franz Holzer also fined Chiswell \$10,560 for his contraventions of federal workplace laws.

Fair Work (Transitional Provisions & Consequential Amendments) Amendment Regs 2010 (No.1)

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA 11/05/10 131N1412

The Regulations amend the Fair Work (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2009 to modify the provisions of the Fair Work (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Act 2009 that allow the making of take-home pay orders. The Regulations allow take-home pay orders to be made where a reduction occurs because of certain variations to modern awards made by Fair Work Australia.

The Regulations are available at:

[http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/1A0D0E02DE70E92FCA25771B0082872B/\\$file/1005300A100429EV.pdf](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/1A0D0E02DE70E92FCA25771B0082872B/$file/1005300A100429EV.pdf)

The Explanatory Statement is available at:

[http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/63C818E0138FD5EACA25771B00828778/\\$file/F2010L01199.pdf](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/legislation/LegislativeInstrument1.nsf/0/63C818E0138FD5EACA25771B00828778/$file/F2010L01199.pdf)

Batemans Bay bosses breach employment laws - NSW

NSW INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS 11/05/10 131N2202

Workplace inspections of 58 commercial businesses in the Batemans Bay region found that 34 employers were non-compliant with industrial relations laws, Don Jones, Executive Director, NSW Industrial Relations said. Mr Jones said that the inspections, completed last year as part of a State-wide campaign, uncovered 104 breaches by the 34 businesses with formal cautions issued to 25 employers. The majority of breaches were because employers failed to maintain general employment records. This can include failure to include information such as the employee award classification, the hours worked and the correct rate of pay.

Workplace inspectors visit businesses in the Sutherland Shire - NSW

NSW INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS 11/05/10 131N2203

Workplace inspections of six commercial businesses in the Sutherland Shire found that three employers were non-compliant with industrial relations laws, Don Jones, Executive Director, NSW Industrial Relations said. Mr Jones said that the inspections, completed last year as part of a State-wide campaign, uncovered seven breaches by the three businesses resulting in two formal cautions.

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Political Update – New South Wales	WPUNSWN	350
Political Update – Victoria	WPUVICN	350
Political Update – Queensland	WPUQLDN	250
Political Update – South Australia	WPUSAN	250
Political Update – Western Australia	WPUWAN	250
Political Update – Tasmania	WPUTASN	250
Political Update – Northern Territory	WPUNTN	250
Political Update – ACT	WPUACTN	250
Political Update – National Package	WPUNATN	895
Bill Tracker – Federal	WFEDDIR	538
Bill Tracker – New South Wales	WNSWDIRN	448
Bill Tracker – Victoria	WVICDIRN	448
Bill Tracker – Package (FED, NSW, VIC)	WWBTPKN	950
Political & Governmental Directory – Federal	WFEDDIR	395
Political & Governmental Directory – New South Wales	WNSWDIRN	395
Political & Governmental Directory – Victoria	WVICDIRN	395
Political & Governmental Directory – Package (FED, NSW, VIC)	WDIRPKN	692
Climate Change & Environment Alert	WACCENZ	480

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