

# IMPACT



## APPOINTMENT AS HUMAN SERVICES MINISTER IN ABBOTT MINISTRY

Following the Coalition's election victory in September, I had the honour and privilege of being appointed as Minister for Human Services in the Abbott Coalition Government.

As Minister, I am responsible for overseeing the Department of Human Services. The main responsibilities are Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support, the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service and Australian Hearing Services.

These are extremely important government services for millions of Australians and I am committed to making them as efficient and effective as possible.

With my colleague, the Hon Michael Keenan MP, I also recently oversaw the government's financial assistance to victims of the bushfires in New South Wales, a challenging but rewarding experience that allowed me to work side-by-side with community members and state and federal agencies to help those affected.

See pages 2 and 3 for more information on my experience so far in the Human Services portfolio.



The new Abbott Coalition Ministry at Government House after being sworn in by Governor-General Quentin Bryce

## LIBERALS PLAY KEY ROLE IN COALITION ELECTION VICTORY



With the then Opposition Leader Tony Abbott at a Western Sydney rally during the successful campaign

Congratulations to all those involved in the Liberal drive towards the comprehensive Coalition win on September 7 last.

Voters have placed their trust in the Abbott Coalition and we will not take you for granted.

The Coalition promised to repeal the carbon tax, which we are on track to do, and to govern for all Australians.

I would also like to congratulate new Liberal members of Parliament in Western Sydney, including Fiona Scott in Lindsay and Craig Laundry in Reid, for their effective grass-roots campaigns and their hardworking campaign teams on a job well done.

Praise should also go to the Martin Zaiter campaign for the seat of Parramatta. Martin and his team achieved a significant swing but fell short by a handful of votes.

The Liberal Party however is well represented in Parramatta including Dr Geoff Lee, our local councillors and my own office. I am continuing to work with the local community as the duty senator to ensure your voice is heard. Please contact my office on 02 9687 8755 if you have any concerns about federal matters.

# BLUE MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY UNITES FOLLOWING DEVASTATING BUSHFIRES



*Fires close in on Summer Hayes Park, Winmalee*

It was a humbling experience to stand alongside fire-fighters, emergency service workers and locals following the bushfires that ravaged parts of the Blue Mountains, destroying homes, and damaging schools and businesses in their path.

The Coalition responded rapidly, backing up local efforts by activating the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) comprising a \$1,000 payment for adults and \$400 for children who were severely affected by the fires.

The Government also provided the Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA), giving people who lost income due to the fires payments for up to 13 weeks, equivalent to the maximum rate of Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance.

My department also set up emergency service centres in Springwood, Katoomba, Winmalee and Lithgow and was responsible for administering the relief payments.

I spent several days in the Blue Mountains and was inspired by the efforts of volunteer and professional fire-fighters who put their own lives at risk to contain the fires, saving lives and property in the process.

Unfortunately, the fires have continued into the new year with outbreaks in the Perth Hills in (WA), Grampians and Gippsland regions (Vic), Southern Flinders (SA) and Bathurst, Oberon and Riverina (NSW). We will remain vigilant and work with local authorities and communities to support those affected.



*At Centrelink Springwood Service Centre with manager Glenda Lee during the fires*

## Tax investigators target undeclared online income **Sweeping checks on welfare cheats**

Human Services Minister Marise Payne said the department was working with eBay to crack down on cheats.  
"If someone is operating a profit making business on eBay, the money they earn is treated as income and needs to be reported to our department,"

*Cairns Post,  
Page 2, Saturday  
12 October 2013*

## EBAY FRAUD CRACKDOWN

I am pleased to report that my department has been working with the Australian Tax Office (ATO) to target people not paying tax on money earned by selling goods on eBay.

Using a sophisticated data-matching program, the Department is targeting people who have earned more than \$20,000 in a year.

Australian taxpayers expect their government to ensure that their fellow citizens are paying their fair share of tax and take a dim view of people who flout the system.

My department will continue to monitor this issue and I urge anyone who attempts to earn profits on eBay without declaring their income to think again, because there is a strong chance you will be caught.

# DIGITAL REVOLUTION UNDERWAY IN MARGATE

Our drive towards the digital future received a further boost with the opening of the Margate Service Centre on Brisbane's Redcliffe Peninsula – the first community in Australia to experience Centrelink and Medicare services centred on digital platforms.

I joined the new Federal Member for Petrie, Luke Howarth MP, in officially opening the centre, which gives customers more control over their interactions with the Department of Human Services, through



*Discussing the needs of customers with local elder Aunty Barbara at the Margate Service Centre*

options such as online and phone self-service and the use of mobile apps.

The service centre's 'app bar' – a national first – helps people familiarise themselves with the convenience of the smart device Express Plus apps in a helpful and friendly environment.

Improving access to digital services will not replace face-to-face support, but improve customers' overall experience.

The Margate Centre will continue to offer one-on-one service to everyone who needs it.



▼ *With staff at the Department of Human Services' Mobile Service Centre in Esk, Southeast Queensland*

▲ *Senator Payne's first Centrelink visit as Minister at Penrith Centrelink, with Secretary Kathryn Campbell and Member for Lindsay, Fiona Scott MP. Western Weekender, page 16, 27 September 2013*



▼ *With Human Services Secretary Kathryn Campbell and staff at the local Centrelink service centre in the outback town of Yuendumu in the Northern Territory. It was a very valuable experience to see first-hand the challenges of delivering frontline services in remote locations.*



▲ *Helping to officially launch Children's Week Family Fun Day at Punchbowl Public School. I also learnt about the Positive Start to School Program, run by the Save the Children organisation, which engages parents in the 12 months before their children start school through weekly playgroup sessions. My department works closely with the Department of Education and other agencies to deliver payments and support for children's education.*



# COALITION TO HELP LOCAL AUTHORITIES TARGET CRIME HOTSPOTS

I am pleased to report that the Coalition Government will provide significant funding for closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras and increased lighting at a range of locations across Western Sydney including Parramatta.

This equipment will help to build on existing infrastructure, deterring crime and helping local police identify offenders.

The comprehensive package includes \$1 million to target crime and anti-social behaviour



Now Minister for Justice, the Hon. Michael Keenan MP, discusses crime prevention initiatives including the use of CCTV with Liberal candidate for Parramatta, Martin Zaiter and Parramatta Lord Mayor John Chedid at Church Street Mall. (Source: NewsLocal)

in Parramatta's Church Street Mall and the broader CBD, along with some suburban locations.

The funding comes under the Coalition's \$50 million Safer Streets program, which is part of a broader campaign involving residents, police, business owners and councils to strengthen our communities and make them safer for everyone.

I look forward to providing further updates as this crime prevention initiative is rolled out across Western Sydney.

## NRL LEARN, EARN, LEGEND! SCHOOL TO WORK GRADUATION

It was an honour to present awards to the 60 graduates of the National Rugby League's Learn, Earn, Legend! School to Work program at Campbelltown Catholic Club in November.

The program was developed to create successful career pathways for indigenous students in Years 11 and 12 in Western Sydney, in a joint initiative with the NRL, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and Western Sydney-based rugby league clubs including the Bulldogs, Wests Tigers, Parramatta Eels and Penrith Panthers.

I was highly impressed by the calibre of this year's graduates, who would be valuable assets to any employer, regardless of the profession or trade they choose.

The NRL does a first-class job in growing both the Rugby League and the communities where it is played, particularly in Western Sydney, and I look forward to helping them continue this work in my role as co-convenor of Parliamentary Friends of Rugby League.



Congratulating graduates of the NRL Learn, Earn, Legend! School to Work programme with Adam MacDougall at Campbelltown Catholic Club

### Contact Marise

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# COMMUNITY SURVEY

YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT TO ME...



## THE ISSUES

Please number (from 1 to 4) the four issues that concern you the most.

- Building a stronger economy
- Tackling crime in our community
- Securing Australia's borders
- Creating local jobs
- Removing the carbon tax
- Improving health care
- Support for local education
- Improving and building new roads
- Supporting small business
- Protecting our local environment

## IN PARLIAMENT

If you could raise one issue in the Federal Parliament, what would it be?

  

## OUR COMMUNITY

If you could fix one problem in our local area, what would it be?

  

## ABOUT POLITICS

Please select one of the following options: (optional)

I ALWAYS support the following party

- Liberal     Labor     Nationals
- Greens     Palmer
- Independent/Other

OR I USUALLY support the following party

- Liberal     Labor     Nationals
- Greens     Palmer
- Independent/Other

OR  I don't support any political party

## YOUR DETAILS

Please complete the following details so that I can keep you informed.

Title

Name

Address

Home ph

Mobile ph

Email

How do you prefer to be contacted?

- Mail     SMS     Email

## YOUR WORK

Please select the option which best reflects your current situation:

- Full-time     Part-time
- Self-employed     At home parent
- Unemployed     Student
- Age pensioner     Disability pensioner
- Self-funded retiree

Your occupation

Thank you for completing this survey.

 /senatormarisepayne

### Please return to:

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**SENATOR MARISE PAYNE**  
Senator for NSW

Authorised and printed by Senator Marise Payne, 2-12 Macquarie Street, Parramatta 2150.

# RESUMPTION OF PARLIAMENT



The 44th Parliament of Australia sat for the first time on Tuesday, 12 November 2013.

As promised, our first order of business was to introduce legislation to repeal Labor's carbon tax. Scrapping the carbon tax will save the average family \$550 a year and remove a \$9 billion weight from the economy.

The repeal bills have passed the House of Representatives and are currently before the Senate.

In addition to this signature repeal policy, we have also achieved the following:

- Successfully concluded negotiations with the Republic of Korea for a \$5 billion Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- Progressed work with the NSW Government to build the WestConnex Motorway in Sydney.
- Signed Memoranda of Understanding to establish one stop-shops for environmental approvals with all states and territories.
- Scrapped Labor's cap on self-education expenses, making life easier for teachers, nurses and tradesmen.
- Scrapped most of the nearly 100 announced, but not enacted, tax changes that were inherited from Labor – meaning lower taxes and more certainty.
- Launched stage one of the New Colombo Plan, which will benefit over 700 Australian students in 2014.
- Granted environmental approvals for major projects worth \$180 billion, meaning more investment and more jobs

I look forward to getting down to business in 2014, abolishing the carbon tax once and for all, repairing the budget and restoring stability and certainty for all Australians.

## REPAIRING LABOR'S BUDGET MESS

One of the biggest challenges we face as a new government is restoring the budget and rebuilding our economy after six years of Labor's wasteful spending and endless deficits.

Treasurer Joe Hockey revealed the extent of the damage done by the former Rudd-Gillard government when he delivered the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) for 2013-14 in December.

The MYEFO forecasts a \$47 billion deficit in 2013-14, and \$123 billion worth of cumulative deficits over the forward estimates.

However, the Coalition has the track record of paying down Labor's debt and creating a strong, productive economy and we will do it again.

We will be guided by the National Commission of Audit, which is examining the role of government and the efficiency of government spending. It will be guided by three principles, that the government should: live within its means; respect taxpayers in the care with which it spends every dollar; and do for people what they cannot do for themselves.

The MYEFO drew a line in the sand after six years of mismanagement from Labor. We know that fixing the Budget is not a short-term job. However, our plan will restore the Budget and provide stability and certainty for current taxpayers and future generations.

### LABOR'S BUDGET DEFICIT LEGACY

