



The Bottom Line

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Braddon and the Budget

NW Selected for New Initiatives for Long-term Unemployed Families and Teenage Parents

The Burnie municipality has been selected as one of ten priority sites nationally for a range of new services and initiatives aimed at supporting education and training of teenage parents, jobless families, as well as finding community driven solutions to create job opportunities and reduce disadvantage particularly for the long term unemployed.

These special measures that we have put together in the Budget for Braddon should be seen as a package.

There will be some obligations for people to

participate in education and establish a training and return to work plan. There will be significant additional support and funding for the community to develop actions to provide opportunities for the disadvantaged.

In addition, there will be more money to support our Local Employment Coordinator and for job creation and support programs across the NW, as well as greater access to *Regional Development Australia* infrastructure funding by the provision of a local contact in Burnie.

Education Plans for Teenage Parents

From January 1, 2012, parents in the Burnie municipality aged 19 or younger, who are Parenting Payment customers, will receive additional assistance to get the education and training they need to give themselves and their children a brighter future.

The aim is to break the cycle of unemployment

because we know that if young parents don't finish their education they are often setting themselves up for a life time of disadvantage.

Significant support for education and childcare will be made available. What we are asking in return is that they attend interviews and develop an education plan to follow.

\$25 million Local Solutions Fund

Burnie will be one of only ten national sites able to bid for money from a **\$25 million Local Solutions Fund** which will support community led initiatives to help jobless families and individuals access the services they need to participate in education and employment.

As part of this program, a **Local Advisory Group** will be established, comprising representatives from local

community organisations, the not-for-profit sector, business and different levels of government. This group will help coordinate **local efforts** to ensure the services people require are available to respond to unmet needs identified by our local community.

The Local Solutions Fund will not be predetermined by government, but will be flexible and community driven.

Local Employment Coordinator and a \$20 million Flexible Fund

The North West region will be able to bid for a slice of an additional **\$20 million fund** set up for local employment initiatives in 20 regions around Australia.

The current Local Employment Coordinator has had the position extended for another two years and will continue to work closely with employers, employment services and local communities, as well as all levels of government, to help drive local solutions to our local labour market

challenges.

A regional employment plan will be developed, based on the needs of the region and will be supported by the new, flexible funding pool of \$20 million.

The funding could be used to help get more retrenched workers back to work, help job seekers get training to take up positions in businesses where skilled employees are required and can't be found, or support communities to run local job drives.

Budget on Track for a Surplus in 2012/13



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A Focus on Children for Long-term Unemployed

From January 1, 2012, parents in the Burnie municipality on income support for two years or more who are not studying or who are under 23 years of age, will be required to attend interviews and workshops with Centrelink. The initial focus will be on health and early development of their

children. As their children get older, the focus will change to the children's preparation for early learning and school. Additional resources will again be made available, such as childcare fee assistance for one year as they establish themselves in the workforce.

Extra Funding for Centacare

Centacare Tasmania will receive additional funding to work with teenage parents and jobless parents as part of their new participation requirements.

This funding comes as part of an extra \$19.1 million for the **Communities for Children** service model across Australia.

New Health Investments

The Budget has delivered major new investments in health. This includes:
- **\$2.2 billion** over five years for additional services with a greater focus on prevention and

early intervention.
- An extra **\$53 million** to improve access to public dental services, particularly for those on low incomes.

More Support for Families with Teenage Students

4100 low to middle income families with **5500** teenagers in **Braddon** could receive up to **\$4200** per child between the ages of 16 and 19 through significant changes to the Family Tax Benefit A.

repairs, instead of having to rely on high interest rate loans or credit cards. These changes to the Family Tax Benefit A will be linked to participation in education because Labor believes that encouraging kids to stay in school or vocational education is vital for our community's future and our children's future.

As part of this reform families will be able to get **advance payments** of up to **\$1000** in the event of unexpected costs like car

Local Community Infrastructure

Since its inception, the *Regional and Local Infrastructure Program* has made more than \$1 billion available for local government authorities to build and modernise community infrastructure. This year's budget allocates monies for some great community projects in Braddon. These include:
-Rosebery Recreation Ground canteen, \$102,000;

-Burnie Arts and Function Centre theatre seating upgrade, \$85,000;
-Boat Harbour Beach BBQ shelter, refurbishment of Sisters Beach BBQ shelters, Somerset soccer ground drainage, refurbishment of Wynyard walkways and Jenner Street jetties, \$128,000; and
-Linking places of interest on King Island, \$30,000.

Mental Health Support

This year's Budget has seen the Gillard Labor Government make an historic **\$2.2 billion** investment in **mental health**. For example:

- \$420 million for youth mental health;
-\$197 million for Headspace centres; and
-\$222 million for early psychosis prevention.

Other Budget Measures

For families:
-The Education Tax Refund has been extended to include **school uniforms**.
-An extension of the Active After Schools Community Program.

forward so a greater proportion appears in pay packets instead of annual tax returns. For a worker on \$30,000 this means an **increase of \$300 a year** in their regular pay.

For workers:
-Some **3174** apprentices in **Braddon** may benefit from ongoing income bonuses to stick with their training. More than 34,000 apprentices have already received the bonus across the country for meeting training milestones in trades including building, plumbing, electrical work and graphic design.
-**Tax offsets for low-paid workers** have been brought

For small business:
-A **100% write-off** of business assets worth less than \$5,000;
-Small businesses can write off the first **\$5000** as an immediate deduction for motor vehicles acquired from 2012/2013;
-A **30% percent write-off** for other depreciating assets except buildings; and
-A **company tax cut to 29%** for incorporated small businesses.

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Labor

January Flood Damage



Central Coast Mayor Jan Bonde, Federal Attorney-General Robert McClelland and Sid inspect where Bannon's Bridge at Gunns Plains once stood. Meanwhile a stranded family looks on from the other side

Between the 11th and 14th of January, excessive and unseasonal rainfall damaged infrastructure, businesses and homes in the municipalities of Central Coast and Burnie. Sid and Robert McClelland, the Minister responsible for disaster recovery, toured the region and saw first hand families that had been isolated by the loss of bridges, road damage and the impact of the floods on businesses like Wing's

Wildlife Park and Harvest Moon.

Minister McClelland announced that the National Disaster Recovery and Relief Arrangements (NDRAA) had been activated, meaning money was available for councils to restore public infrastructure as well as money available to help farmers, businesses and families clean up and get back on their feet.



Colin Wing from Wing's Wildlife Park talks to Federal Attorney-General Robert McClelland, Sid and Brenton Best MP about the impact of the floods on his business

Getting Communities working



Sid at the opening of the NW Sustainable Living Centre

Choose Employment from our local *O Group* were successful in an application for a \$909,000 from the Federal Governments Jobs Fund. This funding has been used to set up two teams of builders who help complete community infrastructure projects like the extension of the Devonport Rugby Club, storage sheds at Greens Beach Golf Club, undercover facilities

at Tandara Lodge and Ulverstone aged care facilities, as well as an extension and toilets at the North West Sustainable Living Centre at Penguin.

In excess of 90 work experience positions were the result of some 15 projects. The program also supported two qualified builders, four trainees and 16 trade assistants in each team.

Regional Australia Committee



Sid and Independent MP Tony Windsor inspect a cotton crop at Cubby Station

Sid, in his role as Deputy Chair of the Regional Australia Committee, has been visiting communities and businesses in the Murray-Darling Basin. The aim is to help find a balance between the water irrigators, businesses and regional towns need with the water the environment needs to keep functioning.

Together with his good mate, Independent



The Regional Australia Committee inspecting irrigation infrastructure

MP Tony Windsor, the committee is tackling one of regional Australia's most divisive issues.

While it is early days yet, the committee has already raised the impact of untargeted water buy backs, questioned some of the modelling used to set environmental water requirements and seen changes to some of the taxation issues raised.



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Braddon *Heartbeat*

Burnie GP Super Clinic Opening



Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon officially opening the Burnie GP Super Clinic at Cooee, while Sid watches on.

Federal Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon, along with excited staff and patients, was on hand in April to open the new Burnie GP Super Clinic.

The clinic brings together GPs, practice nurses, allied health professionals and visiting specialists who will work in multidisciplinary teams to provide integrated health care services to

meet the health needs and priorities of the local community.

As part of delivering preventative health care and chronic disease management services, the Burnie GP Super Clinic offers specific programs relating to smoking, nutrition and physical activity, as well as working with clients to support self-management of diabetes, musculoskeletal problems and mental health issues.

A dispensing pharmacy in the complex tops off this innovative new service.

This is the second GP Super Clinic for the North West, with Devonport opening in July 2010.



While in Burnie to open the Burnie GP Super Clinic, Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon had the opportunity to inspect the building of new patient accommodation at the Burnie Hospital worth \$3 million (left) as well as getting an update on latest plans for the NW Cancer Clinic (right)



NW Chosen for e-Health roll-out

The great work of the NW Area Health Service has been rewarded by the announcement that the North West has been selected as one of nine lead sites for the implementation of e-Health records for aged and palliative care patients.

This means that patients can sign up for a personally controlled, electronic

health record from July 1, this year. Having all medical information available in one spot will help health professionals make better and more informed decisions. Having an e-Health record also means that patients avoid having to repeat all their medical history every time they visit a new doctor or specialist.

New Aged Care Places and Funding for Meercroft Care

Not only will aged care patients be able to have all their medical records in one spot, but there will be 22 new aged care places in the North West, thanks to a \$12 million dollar investment from the Federal Government. This includes nine extra residential aged care places, six community care packages, five Extended Aged Care at Home and two Aged Care at Home

Dementia packages.

A capital grant of \$1.94 million has also been allocated for upgrades to Meercroft Care Inc. at Devonport.

Aged care is a priority for the Federal Government which has tasked the Productivity Commission with undertaking a comprehensive review of aged care to develop options for future reforms.

More Specialist Training in Braddon

Three new specialist doctor training positions have been announced as part of a \$356 million Federal Labor Government investment to boost specialist doctors across the country.

This includes two emergency medicine

specialists and an anaesthetist.

The program is designed to provide opportunities for specialist medical training and entice early career specialists to move to rural and regional areas that at times struggle to fill positions.

UTas Centre of Excellence at Mersey Community Hospital

Work began in March on the Federally funded \$1.48m UTAS Rural Education Centre of Excellence at the MCH. This will form a teaching hub for clinical supervisors, current and future staff,

and growing numbers of students and researchers. As student numbers continue to grow at the Rural Clinical School, it is vital that we have the space and resources available to accommodate their needs.



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State of the Art B&B at Forth (Broccoli and Beans)



Mark Kable, Sid, State Labor Economic Development Minister David O'Byrne, and Neil Armstrong celebrate the opening of Harvest Moon's \$2 million broccoli and bean processing facility

A new state of the art grading and packaging facility at Forth to handle broccoli and beans, was opened in February. This \$2 million project was part of the \$17 million dollar North West and Northern Tasmania Innovation Fund set up by the Federal Government to help tackle the challenge of job losses in the manufacturing sector.

The facilities at Forth not only provide 17 full-time jobs and 77 part-time jobs, but also increase

opportunities for a sound business like Harvest Moon to provide a fresher product and explore new market opportunities.

The 36 projects are to be completed by June 30, with a projected job creation target of 417. In addition, significant extra capital is being put in by the successful grant applicants on top of their already significant co-contributions, making the total budget for the program in excess of \$35 million.

Grants for Young Sports Stars

Grants of \$500 for individuals and \$3000 for teams are available to help rising sports stars get to national sports events. If you are 12-18 and have to travel more than 250km, then you can apply. All nominations

will be reviewed by an independent committee and grants awarded in three rounds each year. Round 3 is currently open until June 30, so check out the Ausport website link below, or Google "Local Sporting Champions".

www.ausport.gov.au/participating/schools_and_juniors/juniors/get_involved/local_sporting_champions

Sid on a Carbon Price

Sid recently mailed out a flyer discussing climate change and the carbon price. If you would like a copy please contact the electorate office on **1300 135 547** (toll free) or **6431 1333**.



\$1 Milk Price

Sid spoke in Parliament in support of the Tasmanian dairy industry in relation to a motion regarding the potential impact of Coles supermarkets' current milk pricing strategy of selling milk for \$1 litre.

In his speech, Sid suggested that milk was already undervalued in the marketplace. He said we have the absurd situation of milk being \$1 a litre when the average price for soft drink is \$1.52 per litre while bottled water is around an average of \$1.12 a litre. When you compare the effort to produce milk,

this seems unfair. You have to grow grass, cut hay and silage, milk the cows, ensure they get in calf and so on, rain, hail or shine. Sid also added that while it was good for consumers to get cheaper milk this should not be at the expense of our dairy industry.

One result of the debate was the establishment of a Senate inquiry to look into the current pricing of "own brand" fresh milk by our major supermarkets, and particularly whether it raises competition concerns under the ACCC.

Congratulations!

On request, NW Coasters celebrating a special birthday or wedding anniversary can receive personal congratulations from the Prime Minister, Governor-General or The Queen.

The Prime Minister will send a message of congratulations to people turning 90 years of age or more. The Queen and Governor-General will send a message on a 100th birthday. On request, the Prime Minister and the

Governor-General will write again every year and The Queen will write again every five years.

The Prime Minister and Governor-General can also send messages to couples celebrating 50 years of marriage and subsequent wedding anniversaries. The Queen sends messages to couples celebrating 60 years of marriage and will write every five years after that on request.

For more information or to apply, call Sid's office.



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New Housing for Vulnerable Tasmanians opened



Vulnerable NW Coasters are now benefiting from two social housing developments in Burnie and Ulverstone.

A 20 x one-bedroom unit complex was opened in Burnie recently. Managed by Optia, the development was built with a \$3.3 million investment from the Federal Labor Government. These units were designed to give disabled people access to brand new housing with universal design principles that make them more accessible. There are grab rails in bathrooms, step free showers, wide doors and hallways, lever style

door handles and low light switches.

A new 19 unit Supported Accommodation Facility in Ulverstone has also been built by the Tasmanian Government with Federal assistance. These units were designed to provide safe, secure and affordable accommodation for people on low incomes and people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The Federal Labor Government is funding more housing than ever to many Tasmanians struggling to find appropriate accommodation.

Latest Scams

It's unfortunate but our office often hears of scams that are doing the rounds in our community.

The latest one is a letter purporting to be from the tax office, suggesting that after a payment of \$150 is sent, some \$4500 of tax will be refunded. Of course, no money will be forthcoming. Instead the victim will be asked for more "administrative fees" and so on. Unfortunately,

when it comes to scams we sometimes hear about them too late for us to help, with money already lost.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is...

If you still have doubts, consult this office, check out ScamWatch at www.scamwatch.gov.au or call **1300 795 995**.

Shorewell Park's Kommunity Kids gets national recognition

In January, Burnie's own local hero, Senior Constable Ian Edwards, was confirmed as the Tasmanian finalist in the 2011 Australian Local Hero Award after Sid put forward this human dynamo's name.

Ian joined other finalists in Canberra where he was congratulated by the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard and



the Governor-General, Quentin Bryce on his work with young people.

Three years ago, Ian and his colleagues with the Tasmania Police Early Intervention and Youth Action Unit, identified an urgent need to address the problem of anti-social behaviour and low school attendance youth living in Shorewell Park.

To achieve this, Kommunity Kids was created with activities centred in and around the Burnie Community House at Wiseman Park.

Kommunity Kids gives local youth a focus through structured games, sporting activities and arts and crafts, in a safe environment. It has



helped to re-establish trust between troubled children, their parents and the police, and attracts up to 200 children from the community.

The program receives no official funding. Instead it relies on goodwill donations from the community with Ian and fellow police officers sometimes putting their hands into their own pockets to keep Kommunity



Kids up and running.

As if Ian had not had enough excitement, last month the Minister for Home Affairs and Justice, Brendan O'Connor, made an unscheduled stop at Kommunity Kids to see for himself the amazing work Ian and his team are achieving.

While Brendan was there he met a number of the kids and managed to fit in a lively game of cricket.



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Building an Education Revolution in Braddon

- ✓ 63 Schools
- ✓ 95 Projects
- ✓ Over \$100 million of funding!



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Sid's byte

Half Full or Half Empty?

Sometimes we need to remind ourselves we live in a great place.

This is not only in comparison with many parts of the world but also Australia. There is no doubting that we have challenges to face and many of these are highlighted in the media. However, the many positives we do have are often not commented upon.

I receive lots of advice and suggestions about what people see as wrong and/or how we might improve things. Some of this is constructive and innovative. I suppose it's the question of whether one sees 'the glass being half full or half empty'!

I have had the pleasure of meeting many clever, innovative and hardworking people in our region and I proudly speak of the high quality of their skills, products and services.

These range across the board – private and public sectors; large and small enterprises and organizations; profit and not-for-profit; rural and urban; young and old.

Over the past four years, Federal Labor has significantly supported our region in many ways and specific regionally targeted assistance is further supported in the 2011 budget.

Yes, we have challenges to face and things to improve. We also have much to be proud of and to celebrate. I hope you find many of these things in the pages of *The Bottom Line*.

Sid

Asylum Seeker Hoax

There are a couple of versions of an e-mail doing the rounds that claim asylum seekers receive much more money as Government payments than pensioners or the unemployed.

This is a cruel hoax that actually originated from Canada a couple of years ago. Asylum seekers who have not had their protection claims decided do not get access to Centrelink benefits. Refugees granted permanent visas may gain benefits on the same basis and at same the rates as other Australian permanent residents. There is no separate rate of benefit payments for refugees.

People who receive dubious e-mails can report the details to www.acma.gov.au or call the ACCC (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission) on **1300 322 502**.

A dedicated telephone number for spam SMS is available to quickly and easily report SMS that the public suspect may breach Australia's spam laws. Messages can be forward to **0429 999 888**.

Buddy, the new addition to the Sidebottom family



Supporting family Carers

Do you care for a family member or friend?

If you find that you are assisting someone with any of the following:

- feeding or preparing meals,
- bathing or personal care,
- emotional support,
- taking medication or giving constant supervision....

then you are a carer.

Caring for someone may be a 24 hour job that can become emotionally, physically and financially stressful. Carers give a great deal to their caring relationships and sometimes they need some extra support, perhaps just to talk through issues and concerns, or to deal with stress. At other times they may have strong or overwhelming feelings such as grief, sadness, shock, or anger. These are natural responses to very difficult situations and major changes in life.

Help is available from Carers Tas
Suite 5,15 Wilmot Street
Burnie 7320
Phone: 6432 1170
Fax: 6432 1171
E-mail: catinc@carerstas.org
www.carerstas.org
FREE CALL 1800 242 636

Services like carer education and training and a young carers program are also available.

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