



Sid Sidebottom MP ... for a fair go in Braddon

MEDIA RELEASE

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Supporting local jobs:

Local Employment Coordinator announced for North-West

Federal Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom MP, today welcomed the announcement of Geoff Speers as the Local Employment Coordinator (LEC) for the North-West.

Mr Speers has been appointed by the Rudd Government to support communities such as Tasmania's North-West that have been hit hard by the global recession. Local Employment Coordinators are tasked to help drive localised, practical responses to unemployment.

Mr Sidebottom said the Local Employment Coordinators will play a vital role in identifying employment opportunities and providing support to workers who have lost their job.

"Mr Speers will be an extraordinarily valuable resource for our local community – they will be working hard to generate employment outcomes using their networking skills and understanding of unemployment issues," Mr Sidebottom said.

"This is something I have been working toward for some time with the Prime Minister's office, and was announced when Kevin Rudd visited Ulverstone on April 8.

"Mr Speers has been selected for his experience and strong links to our local community, which makes him very well-placed to be out there in the community, on the ground, actively working to support local jobs."

"Local Employment Coordinators will also work towards developing apprenticeship opportunities and building the skills the local community needs for the future to take up opportunities once the economy recovers.

"These coordinators will work in difficult times for our community but we are all working together for the best outcomes."

Local Employment Coordinators will work closely with local councils, businesses, chambers of commerce, unions and community organisations to maximise employment opportunities and outcomes for locals who find themselves out of work.

Local Employment Coordinators will also work closely with the local community to identify and develop projects that may be eligible for funding under the Rudd Government's \$650 million *Jobs*

Fund. The *Jobs Fund* is designed to create jobs, increase skills and promote innovative projects in local communities across Australia.

Local businesses, community groups, and members of the public are urged to contact the office of Sid Sidebottom MP for the contact details of Mr Speers.

For further information, please visit www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Pages/JobsFund.aspx

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