



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

Media Release – June 25, 2010

SUPPORT FOR PREGNANCY, BIRTH AND BABY JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

The Australian Government is providing more support for women and their families with a new, expanded national 24 hour Pregnancy, Birth and Baby Helpline starting on 1 July 2010, says the Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom MP.

“Local women from the North-West and West, their partners and families will be able to call the Helpline on 1800 88 24 36 for advice and information about pregnancy, birth and the first 12 months of a baby’s life,” Mr Sidebottom said.

“Having a new baby is a wonderful experience, but it can also be a very challenging and daunting time for all involved. Having easy access to help and information is very important.

“The launch of the new Helpline continues a strong few weeks for families, following the historic delivery of paid parental leave last week.”

The independent charitable organisation, Royal District Nursing Service Ltd, will provide this free service, offering information and counselling on a wide spectrum of topics relating to pregnancy, birthing and life with a new baby – including issues such as nutrition for mothers and babies, breastfeeding, relationship support and health care options.

The \$17 million helpline will be able to refer to or provide information on other organisations with special areas of expertise, for example the Breastfeeding Hotline, adoption agencies, PANDA, BeyondBlue and Family Planning.

An important new component of this enhanced service is the line will also become a resource for women who experience a loss at this crucial time.

The Australian Government has provided a further \$5.1 million to help a range of peer support organisations provide services to women and families throughout Australia. These organisations are SIDS and Kids Australia, Bonnie Babes and Small Miracles and Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Support (SANDS).

“It is important that parents and families in the North-West and West have access to quality, evidence-based information as well as the necessary compassion, support and understanding that is often needed during pregnancy and when you have a new baby,” Mr Sidebottom said.

For more information or to arrange an interview call: Luke Sayer on 0458 311 355