

**FOR MEDIA**

## **CRAIG EMERSON**

**Member for Rankin**

**15 September 2008**

### **Obstructionist Senate puts another service important to families under threat – this time local dental services**

A Rudd Government initiative to provide vital dental services to people in Logan City is under threat by a Coalition intent on blocking legislation in the Federal Parliament.

Member for Rankin, Craig Emerson, has called on Queensland Coalition Senators to “get out of the way” and allow the Government to provide public dental services for Queensland low-income earners including age and disability support pensioners.

Logan City has 16000 age and disability support pensioners. Mr Emerson said he was furious that a Coalition that scrapped the Commonwealth Dental Scheme in 1996 was now blocking the Rudd Government’s legislation to reinstate it.

“The people voted for us to restore the Commonwealth Dental Scheme but the Coalition is still blocking it”, he said.

“We are wanting to invest almost \$60 million in Queensland to cut public dental waiting lists and give people an opportunity to access Commonwealth Dental Care for the first time in more than 12 years,” Mr Emerson.

“But through sheer bloody mindedness the Federal Coalition is blocking this worthwhile program”.

“It’s time to stop the political games so people struggling to make ends meet can access the dental care they desperately need,” he said.