

FOR MEDIA

CRAIG EMERSON

Member for Rankin

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A WIN FOR RANKIN DESPITE TOUGH BUDGET

Trade apprentices, small businesses, the long-term unemployed, and low-income families are among the many set to benefit from the Gillard Government Budget brought down this week, Federal Labor Member for Rankin, Craig Emerson, said today.

Although delivering a responsible Budget aimed at returning Australia to surplus in 2012/13, the Government has lifted spending to help people back into work, improve training, and lend a hand to others in need of assistance.

For example, a \$1,700 Trades Apprentice Income Bonus will be available to 3,040 apprentices in Rankin to encourage them to complete their trade qualifications. Meanwhile, local employment services will provide 2,135 very long-term unemployed with people training and work experience

Mr Emerson said the Government was committed to strengthening Australia's economy, which translated into new jobs and opportunities in Rankin.

"The Gillard Government recognises that training a bigger workforce is vital for the strength of our economy and the living standards of our community," Mr Emerson said.

"This Budget will drive opportunities for families and young people in Rankin by investing in training, education and job creation," he said.

Other highlights for Rankin include \$230,000 to Karakan Hostels to support people with disabilities, and \$46,200 to six local community groups to finance free broadband access and computer training for seniors through the Broadband for Seniors Kiosks.

Payment advances of up to \$1,000 will be available to meet unexpected family expenses, and give parents the choice of receiving child care support fortnightly. Small businesses will be able to claim \$5,000 as an immediate deduction for motor vehicles purchased from now until 2013, while 7,500 local families could be eligible for an extra \$4,200 per child between the ages of 16 and 19 thanks to changes to Family Tax Benefit.

"While many countries around the world are still struggling to pick themselves up from the global financial crisis, Australia's economy is strong and unemployment is low," Mr Emerson.

"However, not all Australians are seeing the benefits of this national prosperity."

“The 2011/12 Budget further builds on Australia’s strong economic record, with a continued focus on jobs, skills and opportunities for all,” Mr Emerson said.