



CRAIG EMERSON

Member for Rankin

Media release

Budget 2007: Logan residents are John Howard's forgotten people

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Big spending budgets always have winners, especially in an election year, but it could come at the cost of rising inflation and higher interest rates according to Craig Emerson, Member for Rankin.

Mr Emerson said: 'Investment in our universities is welcome, as is the recognition of the work our teachers perform.

'But I am disappointed that there is nothing new for preschools and early childhood development. This is such a vital time for learning, which sets up the pattern for future education.

'After this Budget, the Howard government will still rank last among developed countries in the amount it spends on preschool education'.

Mr Emerson said around 105,000 four year-olds miss out on a preschool education each year, most of them from disadvantaged families.

Mr Emerson said tax cuts will go a small way to assisting families, but he hoped the big-spending budget would not lead to future increases in interest rates.

'That would wipe out the benefit of the tax cuts and make home ownership even less affordable', he said.

Mr Emerson said he was unable to find in the Budget any announcement specific to Logan City.

'Once again, the people of Logan City are John Howard's forgotten people', he said.