

Craig Emerson MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR RANKIN

Local and Proud



BUILDING IN LOCAL SCHOOLS GETS UNDERWAY

GROWTH IN TERTIARY EDUCATION



University applications have recorded the largest increase since 2002—while the number of students in higher education in Australia continued to grow in 2008, passing the one million mark.

The Rudd Government is working to increase the proportion of 25-34 year old Australians with bachelor level qualifications to 40 per cent by 2025, and these figures are a promising increase over last year.

The Rudd Government is providing an additional \$490 million over the next four years to assist in the growth of university places, with a further \$437 million to target students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

This funding will enable an additional 50,000 students to start university by 2013 and produce 217,000 additional graduates by 2025.

Work is underway on the Primary Schools for the 21st Century (P21) projects in Logan City. These construction work sites across the state will help modernise schools and support local jobs.

P21 is the largest component of the Australian Government's historic \$14.7 billion Building the Education Revolution (BER) program.

The \$12.4 billion P21 national program will deliver much needed funding to every primary school in Logan City for major infrastructure projects, including libraries, multipurpose halls and classrooms.

Each of our local schools have been allocated funding for various projects and I will keep you updated as work commences on local projects.

I was honoured to present nine students of Logan TAFE with Mick Young Scholarship Awards. These students will now have the opportunity to continue their studies with some financial assistance.



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RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES BENEFIT FROM STIMULUS



Logan City's residents have benefited from the Rudd Government's stimulus package.

Recently I held a 'Keep Australia Working' forum at the Logan Diggers and invited a wide variety of stakeholders to attend and advise the Government on the best way to tackle employment issues in Logan.

One business owner from Fair Dinkum Insulation in Woodridge was happy to inform me that his business has grown from five employees to 48 to cover the demand of the environment portion of the stimulus package.

He also indicated the flow-on effect for other local businesses including printing of t-shirts, increased purchases at local hardware stores and greater demand for local insulation at factories located at Meadowbrook and Wishart.

Positive feedback from local employers indicates we are on the right track and should not prematurely withdrawing the stimulus package.



RANKIN

Number of homes accessing insulation rebate: 4,352

If you haven't yet accessed this service, please take advantage of the offer by contacting a local insulation company to keep your home cooler this summer.

To access information on the home insulation program go to www.environment.gov.au

Number of homes accessing solar hot water rebate: 260

The Government is offering a rebate of \$1,600 to install a solar hot water system or \$1,000 to install a heat pump hot water system. To access information on the solar hot water rebate go to www.environment.gov.au

Remember: you cannot access both the solar hot water and the insulation program.



Road projects: 6

Announcements for the M1 second stage have been made and the successful contractor will commence this long awaited upgrade in late October. For almost a decade under the Howard Government the Logan section of the M1 has waited for funding. Other projects in Rankin underway or completed include blackspot areas in Marsden, Logan Central, Park Ridge and Slacks Creek.

Number of homes for repairs and maintenance: 750

Local public housing homes will receive an additional boost with repairs and maintenance carried out to improve their energy efficiency.



Community infrastructure projects: 2

The Logan Entertainment Centre and the new Logan Central Library announcements were made by the Hon Maxine Mckew on a visit to Logan City. The Entertainment Centre extension will commence in October while the new Logan Central Library work has already begun.

Education building projects: 51

Local & Proud



NEWS IN BRIEF

EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY - MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES

The Rudd Government has announced the release of the National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy.

The Strategy sets out priority actions to get Australians with a disability and mental illness into work.

The Strategy includes investment of \$1.2 billion in new employment services for people with a disability.

From 1 March 2010, this will provide more personalised services for job seekers and support to employers of people with disability.

This means all job seekers with disability will have immediate access to assistance from an employment service helping them to gain skills and employment.

The strategy also includes a \$6.8 million Disability Support Pension (DSP) Employment Incentive Pilot which will trial a new way of encouraging employers to offer employment to people with disability and allow DSP recipients to demonstrate their skills.

NEW REPORTING ON CHILDREN'S PROGRESS

Parents of students in years 3-9 who sat the 2009 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will receive a report on their child's individual performance.

Parents will receive a Student Report which will outline their child's performance on an achievement scale for each assessment area of reading, writing, spelling, grammar, punctuation and numeracy.

AUSSIES URGED TO GET A LIFE

Launched on 30 March, the 'No Leave, No Life' campaign is encouraging Australian workers to tap into their 123 million days of accrued leave and take an Australian holiday. Businesses will also benefit from the campaign as it will reduce the \$31 billion burden of leave presently on their balance sheets.



SAFE WORK AUSTRALIA NOW A REALITY

It took a backdown by the Coalition to pass the Safe Work Australia Bill through the Australian Parliament.

The Act delivers on the Rudd Government's election commitment to create a new national body to lead and improve occupational health and safety (OHS) and workers' compensation arrangements in Australia.

The creation of Safe Work Australia is an important step towards achieving harmonised occupational health and safety laws across Australia.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE FUNDS NEW LOGAN CENTRAL LIBRARY - CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

The Rudd Government has funded two major community infrastructure projects including the new Logan Central Library located at Wilbur Street, Logan Central and the Logan Entertainment Centre extension.

Logan City Council has been allocated \$2.8 million to improve local infrastructure for residents use.

Logan Deputy Mayor Russell Lutton attended the original site with the Hon Maxine McKew for the announcement in June.



