



Welcome to the March edition of the Mitchell newsletter

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(Sky AM Agenda – discussing Budget & tax reforms)

Parliament has been recalled on 18 April 2016 to deal with [Australian Building and Construction Commission legislation](#) which, if not passed, will result in the first [double dissolution](#) Federal election since 1987.

[Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull](#) also announced the Budget will now be held on 3

May in order to allow time for the Opposition Leader's reply to the Budget in case of a double dissolution, which must happen on or before May 11.

Email me at Alex.Hawke.MP@aph.gov.au with your feedback. Also to stay in touch like my [facebook](#) page, [twitter](#) or check out my [website](#).

The facts about school funding



The [Australian Government](#) will spend almost \$70 billion on schools over the forward estimates (2015-16 to 2018-19). This is an increase of \$4.0 billion or 27.3 per cent. Commonwealth funding for public and private schools has gone up every year under the Coalition Government – and funding will continue to go up every year into the future.

State and Territory Governments are the majority funders of government schools providing 87 per cent of total public funding (*2013-14 data from the Productivity Commission*). States decide what funding is given to each school and how it is spent, including the funding they receive from the Government. There is no need for any school to have their funding cut unless the State decides to take funding away.

Commonwealth investment in NSW schools is increasing by \$1.2 billion or 25.4 per cent from 2014-15 to 2018-19. The Coalition is focussing on the factors that make the biggest difference to schools and students such as teacher quality, school autonomy, engaging parents and a strong curriculum.

321 new aged care places for Mitchell

Older Australians in Mitchell will benefit from a substantial increase in funding for aged care services, with the announcement of [321 new places](#) created in the Hills district under the [2015 Aged Care Approvals Round](#). Of the 321 new places, 264

include new residential places worth an estimated \$16.3 million and 57 new home care places, worth over \$2 million.

ANZAC commemorative services in Mitchell



(This Anzac Centenary period, 25 April 2016 sees the focus of our commemorations shift to the Western Front and the anniversaries of significant battles on the Somme in France.)

Local Services in Mitchell:

Sunday 17 April

8.45am

[Castle Hill RSL Sub-Branch](#) Sunday Parade, Commemorative Service

Centenary of Anzac Reserve – Wrights Road, Castle Hill (Opp Kellyville Plaza)

*(Parking - at William Clarke College and streets around the Centenary of ANZC Reserve. Please **do not** park at Kellyville Plaza and Aldi car parks.)*

Monday 25 April

6.00am

[Castle Hill RSL Sub-Branch](#) ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Veterans assemble to march at 5.45am

Centenary of ANZAC Reserve - Wrights Road, Castle Hill (Opp Kellyville Plaza)

***Parking** available at William Clarke College, Kellyville Plaza, Aldi and on street parking around the Centenary of ANZAC Reserve.*

***Public transport** – Free shuttle buses from Castle Hill Showground to Centenary of ANZAC Reserve. Buses commence 04.45am and return to Castle Hill Showground after the service.*

10:30am

[Annangrove Progress Association](#) ANZAC Day Service followed by lunch

Annangrove Park War Memorial

Cnr Currie Avenue & Annangrove Road, Annangrove

12.00pm

[The Hills Club](#) ANZAC Day Commemoration Luncheon.

1pm - Wreath Laying Ceremony

2 Jenner Street, Baulkham Hills

Affordable Housing

Following the establishment of the [Affordable Housing Working Group](#) in January 2016, the Commonwealth Government has received [77 submissions](#) from a wide range of stakeholders on ways to boost the supply of affordable rental housing through innovative financing models.

The working group is now [assessing the submissions](#) to identify barriers to large scale private investment in social and affordable rental housing, and to identify complementary reforms to better encourage and facilitate investment.

Sweeping reforms for Country of Origin Labelling



The recent agreement by the states and territories to bring sweeping reforms to [country of origin food labelling](#) will give Australian consumers clearer and more meaningful information about the products they buy.

The [new food labelling system](#) will provide Australian consumers with the clarity they deserve, without imposing an excessive burden on businesses.

Hills Relay for Life – 21 May, 2015 – **Join my team**



This year's [Hills Relay for Life](#) is returning to Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill and will be held on **May 21 & 22**. In its 15th year the Hills Relay for Life is a significant event in our community – an opportunity to gather together to raise vital funds for cancer research, a time to remember family and friends and a time to band together to fight this insidious disease.

A Healthier Medicare reform package



The [Turnbull Government](#) announced recent improvements to Medicare for chronically ill patients under the [Healthier Medicare](#) reform package. Patients will be able to have all their health care needs managed in the one place – aiming to keep them out-of-hospital and living happier and healthier lives at home.

New Colombo Plan Mobility Program – applications **close 3 June 2016**



Applications for the 2017 [Mobility Grants of the New Colombo Plan](#), the Australian Government's signature initiative to enhance knowledge of the Indo-Pacific among young Australians, is now open. In 2017, the New Colombo Plan will provide around \$20 million in Mobility Grants, which are awarded to Australian universities to support undergraduate students to study and undertake work-based experiences in the Indo-Pacific.

Further information on the Mobility Grants is available at www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan.

Homes for Heroes Relay Walk – 1 May 2016



[Castle Hill RSL Sub-branch](#) work tirelessly to assist our former Defence personnel who have served our nation selflessly. There are times when our returned service men and women need our help, who due physical, mental or emotional scars find themselves alone and homeless. The Castle Hill RSL Sub-branch has registered a team to participate in the [Homes for Heroes Relay Walk](#) at Parramatta Park at 9am on **Sunday, 1 May 2016**.

For further information please contact Phil Evenden on 0413 715 622 or visit

Small Business Export Loans



The [Small Business Export Loan](#) is the latest tool from the Turnbull Government to help businesses in Mitchell take full advantage of the free trade agreements of China, Japan and South Korea.

These landmark agreements are creating exciting opportunities for local businesses to grow. The Coalition is committed to supporting them with tools such as the export loan to drive jobs and growth in Mitchell.

Representing the communities of Baulkham Hills, Beaumont Hills, Bella Vista, Box Hill, Castle Hill, Kellyville, Maraylya, Nelson, Northmead, North Rocks, Rouse Hill, West Pennant Hills and Winston Hills

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