



The Randall Report

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A community newsletter from Don Randall JP MP, Federal Member for CANNING

Huge win for Canning and Hasluck

Ending months of speculation, Federal Members Don Randall (Canning) and Stuart Henry (Hasluck) joined with Minister for Vocational and Technical Education, the Hon Gary Hardgrave to announce the worst kept secret in Canberra.

The Perth South region Australian Technical College (ATC) will be established in Armadale/Gosnells.

Mr Hardgrave said the bid by Stirling Skills Incorporated, which includes the Cities of Gosnells and Armadale, as well as the Armadale Redevelopment Authority, had been considerably strengthened and now provided a strong foundation for the successful development of the south of Perth ATC.

The College will commence in 2007 and have two campuses, one in Gosnells and one in central Armadale, with the possibility of other annexes in coming years.

"This is a fantastic result which reflects the tremendous hard work

and determination by the Cities of Armadale and Gosnells along with the Armadale Redevelopment Authority," said Mr Randall.

"The College will be well financed, well resourced and will promote core skills and competencies to address Western Australia's skills shortage.

"The South-East corridor of Perth has been neglected in terms of educational options for our students for too long. I am pleased that Year 11 and 12 students in this area will have more choice and opportunity from 2007 onwards," said Mr Randall.

The College proposes to offer courses in the automotive and construction industries initially,

with courses in electro-technology and metals/engineering to be rolled out.

"It will provide skills training for Years 11 and 12 students through a School-Based New Apprenticeship, while at the same time allowing them to gain the necessary academic qualifications for their Year 12 certificate," said Mr Randall.

The Australian Government Identified 24 locations across the country for the establishment of Australian Technical Colleges to further address the pressing skill shortage.

Western Australia will receive another College, to be located in the Pilbara.



Don is happy that students like Kirsten Edwards (Year 6) and Chris Klinger (Year 1) are learning to be healthy and active.

Xavier students on their way to healthy lifestyle

Canning MHR Don Randall recently visited Xavier Catholic School to check out the activities taking place under the Building a Healthy, Active Australia programme.

In August, Mr Randall learnt of five schools in the Canning electorate who had signed on to participate in the initiative, which aims to address the growing crisis of youth obesity.

Grovelands Primary School, Pinjarra Primary School, Ranford Primary School, Xavier Catholic School and West Kelmescott Community Recreation Centre have adopted the Active After School Communities (AASC) programme announced by the Prime Minister in mid 2004 and

run by the Australian Sports Commission.

"The Government has allocated \$90 million to this program over four years and aims to improve the health, well-being and motor skill competencies of primary school children," said Mr Randall.

"It is very important that children learn the benefits of a balanced lifestyle early so they can set themselves up for a healthy future," said Mr Randall.

Teachers Andrea Moyses and Erica Mielens were supervising activities when Mr Randall visited the school.

"Depending on the weather, we usually get between 40 and 60 students stay back to participate in our activities," said Ms Moyses.

"For 15 minutes after school

finishes, the students enjoy fresh fruit prepared by rostered on parents, then split up in to two groups to play games until 4.15pm."

On Tuesday afternoons the students participate in both Volleyball and Hockey with T-Ball and Cricket played on Thursday.

Last year the school purchased sporting equipment with the \$1,500 they received from the Australian Government.

This year, part of the funding has been spent on acquiring trainers from local sporting teams to deliver the program, relieving the pressure on teachers who have spent all day with students.

"It's clear that the students are having a great time and whilst they may not realise it now, they are learning the benefits of a

healthy lifestyle," Mr Randall said

The program was piloted in 20

schools around Australia in Term 1, 2005 and will be expanded to a total of 3,250 schools by 2007.

You are in the electorate of Canning if you live in one of the following suburbs...

Armadale, Banksiadale, Barragup, Bedfordale, Birchmont, Blythwood, Bouvard, Bridgewater, Brookdale, Brookland Greens, Byford, Canning vale, Carcoola, Cardup, Castle Glen, Challis, Champion Lakes, Clifton Hills, Coolup, Crestwood, Darling Downs, Dawesville, Dwellingup, Erskine, Etmilyn, Farbridge, Falcon, Forest Lakes, Forrestdale, Furnissdale, Halls Head, Hamel, Herron, Holyoake, Hopeland, Huntingdale, Inglehope, Jarrahdale, Karragullen, Karraup, Kelmescott, Keysbrook, Kooljerrenup, Lake Clifton, Lake Preston, Livingston, Mardella, Marinup, Meelon, Miami, Mt Nasura, Mt Richon, Mundijong, Murray Lakes, Myara, Nambesup, Nirimba, North Dandalup, North Pinjarra, North Yunderup, Oakford, Oakley, Oldbury, Pinjarra, Point Grey, Preston Beach, Ranford, Ravenswood, Roleystone, Sanctuary Waters, Serpentine, Seville Grove, Solus, South Yunderup, Southern River, Stake Hill, Teesdale, Thornlie, Tuart Grove, Wagerup, Wannanup, Warratah, Waroona, West pinjarra, Westfield, Whitby, Whittaker, Wungong, Yunderup.



The question is often asked as to “why is Australia able to economically out perform our near neighbours and like economies where our competitors have large unskilled workforces that work for very low pay?”

The short answer is that Australia is able to out perform near neighbours in Asia and like world economies because in recent years Australia has progressed from the ‘lucky country’ to a ‘smart country’. The smart country status has been achieved by taking measures to create a more flexible and responsive work force.

In 1996, the newly elected Howard Government implemented changes to Australia’s industrial relations laws to begin the process of freeing up the workforce and moving away from the centrally controlled system that was (and is still) promoted by the Labor Party and its union bosses.

At the time the union movement, ably assisted by the ALP and led by Kim Beazley, made all sorts of wild allegations about the collapse of the workforce and workers rights. You may recall that their people marched on Parliament House in Canberra, “trashed” it and many innocent workers and security guards were assaulted and/or injured.

Well the ‘sky did not fall in’, in fact these early 1996 workplace reforms began the process of better wages and conditions for workers. In the end what is so wrong about giving workers a job and more pay?

The figures confirm the outstanding condition of the Australian economy today. That is, real growth in wages by 14%

since 1996, the lowest unemployment levels in 60 years and record low home loan interest rates.

The danger of such good economic conditions is that some may be lulled into thinking that this strong performance is our right and will last forever. Anyone who is tempted to believe this only needs to think of Germany. Germany did not build on its strong economy and continue structural reform. Today it is a country that is under extreme economic pressure. As a result, its people are suffering unemployment levels of over 10% and high home and personal interest rates.

It will not be easy, but it is only responsible that the Australian Government continues its reform of the arthritic industrial relations system, in spite of the Labor/Union scare and disinformation campaigns. Like dying dinosaurs in Jurassic Park they are clinging to their last gasp at centrally controlling the Australian workforce. On the other hand the Government is facing the reality of selling positive reform against a negative campaign.

Ultimately, once these reforms are passed and are seen to be working, workers and their families will find that they are better off because they will have a job and more pay.

In the face of a desperate scare campaign the best friend that the workers have is the Howard Government. The only risk is that the reforms are not taken and there is a return to lower wages and fewer jobs, by returning to a world of regulated workplaces.

Don Randall



The donrandallmp.com website has been revamped for easier navigation and offers new functions enabling residents to have their say and register their opinions.

Mr Randall is keen to keep on top of the Federal initiatives and issues that concern residents in the Canning electorate. With the new voting system located on the home page, Mr Randall can easily gauge what issues are at the forefront of his constituents concerns.

Photos from around the electorate feature on a photo montage and there are links to important publications such as the “Welfare to Work” reforms and information on the Perth-Bunbury Highway.

The site also provides useful links to Federal Government department websites. Log on to www.donrandallmp.com to explore the new site.

New look website



Understanding petrol pricing



As petrol prices have risen so too have the number of misconceptions of how fuel is priced. Many people are unaware that the Australian Government’s excise on petrol remains at 38.1 cents per litre, no matter what the price is at the bowser.

However, the price is determined by a number of factors

including international refined oil prices, the Australian/US exchange rate and GST.

The Australian Competition and Consumers Commission (ACCC) has released a booklet titled ‘Understanding Petrol Pricing in Australia’.

To obtain a copy of the ACCC booklet or for further information go on line www.accc.gov.au or call the Info centre 1300 302 502.

DID YOU KNOW...

You can nominate as a runner for the 2006 Commonwealth Games Baton Relay. Go to www.queensbatonrelay.telstra.com

Grovelands Primary School has received \$15,630 under the ‘Whole of School Intervention Strategy’ programme for their ‘Growing Creative Memories’ project. Students and parents will be involved with cultivating native plants that are of significance to the local community

The gold lettering on the Rushton Park Memorial will be restored

thanks to a grant of \$895 received by the Kelmscott-Roleystone RSL under the ‘Saulting their Service’ program



The unemployment rate in Armadale fell from 7.2 per cent to 6.5 per cent, Gosnells fell from 6.3 per cent to 5.8 per cent and Serpentine-Jarrahdale fell from 3.5 per cent to 3.2 per cent in the June 2005 quarter

BULK BILLING 67.7%

9.2%

The GP bulk billing rate in Canning has reached 67.7 per cent in August, an increase of 9.2 percentage points as a result of the Australian Governments measures to strengthen Medicare

The OECD’s latest international comparison of taxes rates Australia as the eight lowest taxed country among its 30 industrialised members

WorkChoices:

A better deal for workers in Canning

Canning MHR Don Randall welcomed the detailed information released on WorkChoices, the Howard Government's new workplace relations system which will replace a rigid and outdated system that is holding Australia back from further improving productivity, more jobs and increased living standards for families.

"WorkChoices represents a sensible and practical change to ensure that the people of Canning and Australia can continue to enjoy reliable employment and growing real incomes into the future," said Mr Randall.

Some key features of WorkChoices include:

- minimum and award classification wages protected by law;
- specified existing award conditions like penalty rates, overtime and long service leave protected by law;
- the right to join or not to join a union protected by law;
- no obligation on an employee to enter into new agreements with employees keeping their current awards and agreements;

- employees moving from state awards and agreements remaining under those instruments and keeping their current remuneration;
- increased safeguards for workers through enhanced services through the Office of Workplace Services;
- making it unlawful for any employer to dismiss an employee for refusing to accept a new workplace agreement; and
- assisting workers balance work and family commitments

In the past 12 months alone, the Australian Government has created more than 400,000 jobs, 885 of which were in the Canning electorate - pushed unemployment to a 30 year low and delivered real wage increase of 14.9 per cent.

"We should be proud of these outstanding figures, but never complacent - there is more to be done.

"WorkChoices is designed to build on and enhance the protections and flexibilities already provided to Australian workers with family responsibilities. Achieving the right balance between paid work and family responsibilities is a significant issue for many families in Canning.



Don supports a new workplace relations system as it will provide more flexibility for employers and employees in Canning.

"Workplace agreements can include a range of innovative and flexible practices that help employees balance their work and home lives which are not included in one size fits all awards, such as flexible hours arrangements.

Relations between employers

and employees are currently covered by over 130 pieces of workplace relations legislation, more than 4,000 different awards and six different workplace relations systems.

"That unnecessary complexity and red tape is bad for business

and bad for employees and it's holding us back," Mr Randall said

For more information or your free booklet call the WorkChoices hotline on 1800 025 239 or visit the WorkChoices website: www.workchoices.gov.au



Federal grants assist Canning schools

Canning MHR Don Randall was pleased to announce that students and staff at Government and Non-Government schools across the Canning electorate will benefit from a share in grants worth more than \$950,000 under the Australian Government's Investing in our Schools Programme.

The following schools received funding for a range of projects:

- **Armadale Education Support Centre** has received \$22,456 for classroom improvements, including Information and Communication Technology (ICT) the installation of air-conditioning
- **Armadale Primary School** will allocate their grant of \$49,056 to five projects. A walk way will be constructed, carpet replaced, the ICT upgraded, blinds purchased and the undercover area will be extended

- **Byford Primary School** plans to purchase new classroom furniture and construct retaining walls and concrete pathways with their grant of \$40,292

The performing arts department will be fitted with a secure music storeroom and the ICT improved for Campbell Primary School in Canning Vale with the help of a \$62,224 grant

- **Canning Vale Primary School** will use \$49,943 to improve ICT and general classroom inefficiencies

- The dance studio will be improved, the science lab refurbished and the middle school will receive ICT with the help of two grants totalling \$140,550 at **Cecil Andrews Senior High School, Armadale**

- **Forest Crescent Primary School** will incorporate Sun Safe Shade Structures worth \$49,936

- Similarly **Jarrahdale Primary School**

will install playground shading for their students worth \$12,656

- Following the trend, **Marri Grove Primary School** in Byford will install playground shade protection and incorporate a multi-application card system which allows children to purchase canteen items with a card instead of using currency, thanks to their grant of \$39,550

- **John Calvin Christian College** has received \$313,000 for the construction of student amenities, including a covered assembly area, manual arts area, two general learning areas, refurbishment of primary classrooms, furniture and site development

- A playground will be constructed at **Pioneer Village School** in Armadale worth \$73,000

- **Neerigen Brook Primary School** will put their grant of \$50,000 towards upgrading their playground and enclosing the undercover area

- **St Emillie's Catholic Primary School** in Canning Vale has received \$73,832 to design and construct a grassed area for their students

"The Investing in our Schools Programme is a great initiative as it funds projects that have been identified by school communities themselves," said Mr Randall.

"These projects, though desperately needed by schools, never seem to make it on to priority lists.

"Instead, Schools face the long and arduous task of raising the necessary funding for themselves, through P&C's and other supporters.

"There is a significant amount of funding involved in these projects which again demonstrates the importance the Australian Government places on developing and maintaining school infrastructure," said Mr Randall.

Federal funding to help educate medical community



Don, along with Barry and Lorraine Young, was pleased the Federal Government was able to lend its support to the distribution of this important educational DVD.

In August this year, Mr Randall formally announced funding of \$5,000 from the Department of Health to the Amanda Young Foundation and Media One for the distribution of a groundbreaking DVD educating the medical community about Meningococcal disease.

"The Amanda Young Foundation in partnership with Media One, have produced an exceptional tool to educate doctors, nurses and students in the early diagnosis and management of meningococcal septicaemia and meningitis," said Mr Randall.

"Tragically, there have been

many cases where quicker diagnosis and accurate initial treatment could have saved the lives of many young children.

Barry and Lorraine Young approached Mr Randall in May this year to discuss the possibility of gaining Federal funding for the project and provided posters, brochures and a copy of the production for his information.

Mr Randall met with Minister for Health and Ageing the Hon Tony Abbott in June and discussed the Foundation's sponsorship proposal.

After almost two months of persistent lobbying, the Federal Minister agreed to the funding proposal.

The DVD contains information

on how to recognise meningococcal symptoms in their early stages, the steps to take in order to save a life.

Mr Randall acknowledged the hard work and determination shown by the Amanda Young Foundation in bringing this disease into the community conscience.

Whilst the DVD is targeted towards doctors, triage nurses and ambulance staff, Mr Randall encourages parents and caregivers to familiarise themselves with the symptoms and warning signs and be vigilant when assessing children's health.

To order this important production, call 1300 55 44 17 or email video@mediaone.com.au

AUTISM REPORT

Mr Randall supports an increase in services and payments for parents raising disabled children, including those affected by autism. The month of September was a busy one for the promotion of disability service issues with rallies and events taking place in Canberra and across the country.

Patience, Love and Autism

Upon learning of Mr Randall's interest in Autism, Armadale author Mrs Denise Crouch presented him with a copy of her book "Patience Love and Autism".

Denise has worked as an education assistant with autistic students for the past 12 years.

The book details her personal experiences and the strategies she found useful in dealing with behavioural difficulties.

Mr Randall was impressed with the publication and

mentioned the book in a speech to Parliament on 5th September where he also acknowledged the upcoming event, 'Walk a Mile in My Shoes'.

"Denise has worked with young autistic boys and has been able to help them to get through to year 12, where they have gone on either to tertiary education or to get good jobs," said Mr Randall.

"This book could be extremely helpful to other people going through the same trials, the same challenges as those experienced by Denise.



Walk a Mile in My Shoes

Politician Adoption Scheme

The Politician Adoption Scheme Morning Tea hosted by the Developmental Disability Council of Western Australia Inc was held at Parliament House Canberra.

Mr Randall took the opportunity to meet families who had flown to Canberra to attend the 'Walk a Mile in My Shoes' rally.

The Politician Adoption Scheme, coordinated by the Developmental Disability

Council of Western Australia (Inc) builds on the existing role of politicians to represent and advocate for the interest of the people they have been elected to represent.

Under the scheme the politician is "adopted" by a person with a disability.

Mr Randall was adopted by six year old Brookdale resident Dermott Barnard in June, acting as a representative to Dermott and advocating for his rights and needs as a person with autism.

Mr Randall was among the large group who gathered on the lawn of Parliament House Canberra on Tuesday 13th September, in support of increased funding for disability services.

The 'Walk a Mile In My Shoes' campaign, organised by 'The Hidden Army' and supported by the Western Australian Developmental Disability Council, asked Ministers, Senators and Members to convene on the lawns of Parliament House to listen to their concerns, issues and proposals.

"Parents of children with disabilities made the trip to Canberra from all around Australia to explain

to Members of Parliament what is involved in raising children with special needs and the challenges they face on a daily basis. I was glad to join them," said Mr Randall.

One of the main themes discussed during the dialogue was the lack of ownership taken by the State Governments in terms of funding and services.

Another major issue was a continued lack of respite services for the 1.6 million carers of disabled persons.

Mr Randall listened to the suggestions of many parents on the ways in which their daily struggles could be made easier and confirmed he would promote these ideas to his parliamentary colleagues whenever

possible.

In attendance from the Canning electorate was Ms Lynne Hearne of Brookdale, a single parent raising two disabled children and member of the 'Unique Mothers' group.

Those who could not attend today's event sent pairs of shoes, representing the campaign's theme, which were placed on the Parliament House lawn.

Mr Randall said he was honoured to place shoes on behalf of those unable to make the journey to Canberra.

The dialogue with Parliamentarians in Canberra coincided with campaigns held in four other States, including a barbecue meeting on the Mandurah foreshore.