

The Randall Report

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A Community Newsletter from Don Randall MHR, Federal Member for CANNING

Prime Minister comes to Armadale to consult with local community



Principal of Armadale Senior High School Joe Kalazich, Don Randall and the Prime Minister discuss local issues.

Federal Member for Canning, Don Randall was delighted the Prime Minister, the Hon. John Howard accepted his invitation to visit the region to meet with and listen to the concerns and needs of the people in the Canning electorate.

Mr Randall said, "The reception at the City of Armadale provided a unique opportunity for local community groups and residents to interact with the Prime Minister and update him about issues of concern in this part of the Canning electorate.

"Mayor Linton Reynolds reiterated the importance to the area of the very successful Roads to Recovery program welcoming its continuance. Other local projects were brought to the attention of the Prime Minister:

"The best way to ensure our electorate receives the most benefit is to take advantage of

such visits to impress upon our decision makers what the region needs to continue to grow and prosper.

"This outer metropolitan area presents unique challenges for our community and I look forward to continuing to work with local Councils, community groups and residents to ensure the Federal Government delivers assistance where it can."

News Update ...

A number of concerned constituents have contacted my office following the signing of the Free Trade Agreement with the United States in regard to the cost of prescription medicines listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Access to affordable medicines under the PBS will be maintained under the Agreement and Australians can be assured this Government has delivered on its commitment that the price of prescription medicines will not increase as a result of this Agreement.

For more information about the benefits of the Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United States go to www.dfat.gov.au or call the Hotline on 1300 558 413

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Australian representative canoeist Lee Davey watches on as Armadale Mayor Linton Reynolds explains the Champion Lakes international standard rowing and white-water facility concept to Prime Minister John Howard.

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

Armadale, Banksiadale, Barragup, Bedfordale, Birchmont, Blythewood, Bouvard, Bridgewater, Brookdale Greens, Byford, Canning Vale, Caroola, Cardup, Castle Glen, Challis, Clifton Hills, Coolup, Crestwood, Darling Downs, Dawesville, Dwellingup, Erskine, Etnilyn, Fairbridge, Falcon, Forest Lakes, Forrestdale, Furnissdale, Halls Head, Hamel, Herron, Holyoake, Hopeland, Huntingdale, Inglehope, arrahdale, Karragullen, Karrakup, Kelmscott, Keysbrook, Koojerrenup, Lake Clifton, Lake Preston, Livingston, Mardella, Marrinup, Meelon, Miami, Mount Nasura, Mundijong, Murray Lakes, Myara, Nambeelup, Nirimba, North Dandalup, North Pinjarra, North Yunderup, Oakford, Oakley, Oldbury, Pinjarra, Point Grey, Preston Beach, Ranford, Ravenswood, Roleyston, Sanctuary Waters, Serpentine, Solus, South Yunderup, Southern River, Stake Hill, Teesdale, Thornlie, Tuart Grove, Wagerup, Wannanup, Waratah, Waroona, West Pinjarra, Westfield, Whitb, Whittaker, Wungong, Yunderup.

Don's Desk

The ALP's move to allow illegal immigrants access to permanent residency after two years in Australia should send a strong signal to the electors of Canning and indeed, Australia that Labor under Mark Latham is maintaining a soft approach regarding the integrity of Australia's migration system.

Essentially, new ALP policy means that if those who want to enter Australia illegally can reach Australian territory, they will be permitted to stay.

The prospect of remaining in Australia is also made easier due to the fact there are so many avenues available to illegal arrivals through the multi-tiered legal appeals process, even after they have been deemed not to be genuine refugees.

As a result, the High Court of Australia is clogged with vexatious appeals lodged by such people.

In an effort to address this problem, the Howard Government has endeavoured to reform the appeals process so that requests for legal review limited, eliminating the need for illegal arrivals to remain in detention for lengthy

periods of time.

However, every time this legislation is placed before the Australian Senate, the Labor Party unites with the Greens and Democrats to defeat these essential measures.

The new Labor policy which intends to bestow permanent residency to illegal arrivals after a period of two years, will send a glaring signal to people smugglers and illegal arrivals that Australia is open for business as an easy destination once again.

To believe that illegal arrivals who enter Australia are poor and destitute should be revealed for what it is. It is difficult to reconcile this with the reality when we know these individuals are charged somewhere between \$4,000 and \$10,000 by people smugglers who arrange their passage to Australia.

This is equivalent to purchasing a business or first class airfare from their countries of origin. These people pay such high fees because they know that if they paid for an airfare and tried to enter Australia lawfully, they would be stopped at their point of

entry and their attempt to jump the orderly immigration queue would fail.

Australia has one of the world's most generous refugee policies accepting approximately 14,000 genuine refugees per year - second only to Canada. Sadly, those who arrive illegally reduce the quota for refugees who apply lawfully.

Naturally, those deemed to be genuine refugees and who have been accepted in Australia, are the harshest critics of those who jump the orderly migration queue.

Labor remains divided on its refugee policy. In one corner stands Carmen Lawrence, Lindsay Tanner and the left wing of the Party who tag the Government as racist and demand further relaxation of this proven policy. On the other side of Labor's fence stand sensible Members such as Bob Carr, the NSW Premier who believes "the elected government - not the people smugglers should decide who comes to Australia."

Mr Carr supports John Howard's stance and no doubt echoes the views of Australia's "silent" majority.

Don Randall

PS: The fourteen illegal Turkish arrivals who tried to land on Australian territory have all been found not to be refugees.



THE HOWARD GOVERNMENT IS PROTECTING OUR BORDERS



Australians are living in uncertain times. Terrorism is still in the headlines, and the memory of the Bali atrocity reminds us of the need for Australia to remain vigilant in protecting our borders.

That's why the Howard Government has made tough and responsible decisions to strengthen border protection.

And it's working!



Protecting our borders from people smuggling

The Howard Government has sent a tough message: "Australia is not a soft target for people smuggling". We all remember images of hundreds of unauthorised arrivals trying to enter our country. Since Dec 2001, the **two** unauthorised vessels that tried to enter Australian waters were intercepted before they could reach the mainland.



Protecting our borders from terror threats

The Government is determined to protect Australians against terrorist threats. The Government has committed an additional \$1.8 billion over six years to continue the upgrade of our domestic security arrangements and special forces.



Protecting our borders from illegal drugs

The Howard Government's \$1 billion Tough on Drugs plan is the largest single national initiative ever undertaken in Australia to fight the drug problem. (Source: Prime Minister, House of Representatives Hansard, 17 June 2003) Since 1997, over 9 tonnes of the hardest drugs have been seized, up from 2.5 tonnes in the previous five years.

Sign on to save a life

Don Randall is asking his constituents to think about becoming an organ donor during Australian Organ Donor Week 2004 February 22 - 26, saying it is important to recognise that more than 1,800 Australians are currently waiting for life saving organ donors.

Mr Randall said, "Australia has very successful transplantation programs, but we also have the lowest organ donation rates in the world - only 179 people became organ donors on their deaths last year.

"The generosity of former cricket star David Hookes was instrumental in saving a number of lives. Many more lives could be saved or improved if more people became organ and tissue donors."

HOW TO BECOME AN ORGAN OR TISSUE DONOR:

- Call the Australian Organ Donor Register for information and a registration form on 1800 777 203 or log on to www.hic.gov.au/organ.

You can also collect a registration form from Medicare offices.

School funding – sorting fact from fiction

Federal Member for Canning Mr Randall said, "The school funding debate continues to be deliberately misrepresented by the ALP and the Australian Education Union, both of whom are fully aware that under our Constitution, state schools are the responsibility of State and Territory Governments.

"The Federal Government has primary responsibility for funding Catholic and Independent schools.

"The fact remains that every child in a Catholic or independent school still receives less public funding than they would if they attended a public state school.

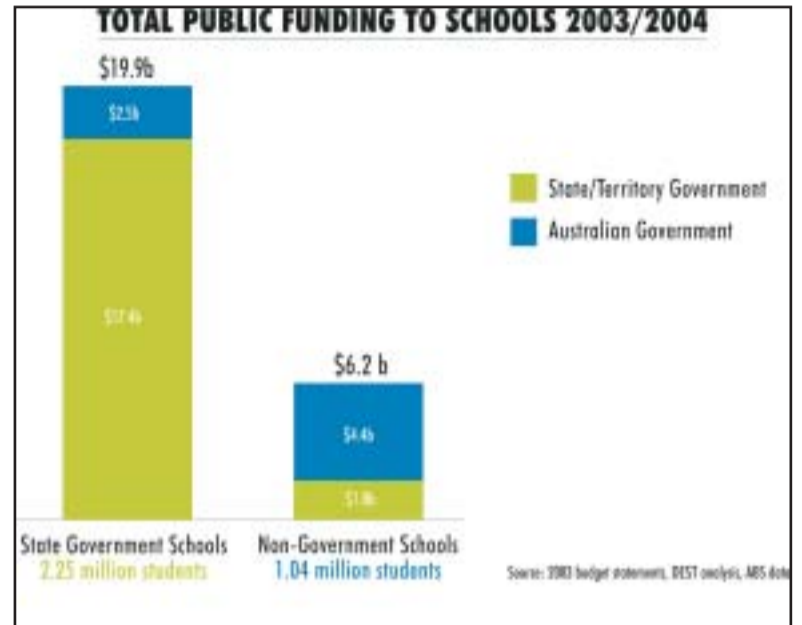
"The Australian Education Union policy advocates that parents of the 1 million

students in independent and Catholic schools should receive no public funding.

"The Howard Government on the other hand, believes that every parent, having paid their taxes, deserves a degree of public assistance to help educate their child, regardless of which school they attend.

"It should also be accepted that these parents contribute \$3 billion to the education of their children representing significant savings for taxpayers.

"The Federal Government also supplements the States' and Territories' funding of their schools through an annual indexation arrangement and this delivers consistent increases to state government schools."



| State | State Govt Increase in its 2003 budget | Australian Govt Increase in its 2003 budget | Additional funding if state/territories increased their funding at the best first rate |
|--------------|--|---|--|
| NSW | 0.0% | 5.7% | \$293m |
| VIC | 2.3% | 6.1% | \$179m |
| QLD | 2.4% | 5.4% | \$116m |
| WA | 2.8% | 5.1% | \$53m |
| SA | 4.9% | 5.3% | \$5m |
| TAS | 2.9% | 5.6% | \$14m |
| ACT | 4.3% | 6.0% | \$5.7m |
| NT | 2.2% | 2.9% | \$2.4m |
| Total | 2.1% | 5.5% | \$668m |

Source: 2003 Budget Statements, DEST analysis

Did you know?

- 68% of all school students attend state schools and receive 76% of the taxpayer funds which go to schools.
- 32% of students attend independent and Catholic schools and receive the remaining 24% of taxpayer's funds.
- The Federal Government's funding of non-government schools is calculated using a socio economic status (SES) model which delivers funding based on the income, occupation and education profile of parents.
- The schools serving the poorest communities receive 70% of the average cost of educating that child at a state Government school while the schools serving the wealthiest communities receive 13.7% of the average cost of educating that child at a state Government school.

Canning Vale company set to blast off

Federal Member for Canning Don Randall has welcomed the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, the Hon Ian Macfarlane's approval of a Commercialising Emerging Technologies Program (COMET) grant of \$56,000 for Canning Vale company Jet-Net International Pty Ltd, so they can burst onto the international market with a unique high-pressure water jetting tool.

"Mr Randall said, "This grant will allow Jet-Net the opportunity to market their innovative invention for use in the mining and marine industries. Seeing this product in action during Minister Macfarlane's visit was certainly impressive and left little doubt Jet-Net's DEK Nozzle has the potential to replace most types of

cleaning and blasting nozzles used in mining and marine cleaning operations.

"The nozzle is easier to control, will reduce operating costs by 50 per cent and has the potential to impact upon a number of industries.

"Jet-Net predicts its national and international sales will exceed \$300 million within 5 years, earning great export dollars for our economy.

"The COMET program recognises innovative companies across Australia by helping them obtain professional and expert assistance with advancing their products.

"It is wonderful to see such innovative companies and products being designed in the electorate of Canning and receiving assistance from the Howard Government."



Don and Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources Ian Macfarlane watch a demonstration of the Jet-Net nozzle by inventor Mr Danek Liwszyc.

Fact... "A total of 169,000 full time jobs were created in the last six months and that is, in net terms, greater than the number of full time jobs created in the last six years of Labor Government, from March 1990 to March 1996." — Treasurer, the Hon Peter Costello

But there is more to be done. The Howard Government is committed to making responsible decisions such as reforming the labour market and reforming the welfare system to help keep unemployment low. Labor continues to oppose these measures, clearly demonstrating they don't have the strength to make the tough decisions to help create more jobs.

Funding in brief

- Envirofund funding of over \$27,000 for the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group and nearly \$17,000 for the Serpentine River Group for programs to tackle local environmental problems.
- Additional low care residential places and a \$74,000 capital grant for Armadale aged care service provider, Fairhaven Hostel to meet the ongoing demand for residential aged care facilities in the region.
- An extra 26 vacation care places for Carey Community Child Care Centre to help Armadale families balance their work and family commitments. Since coming to office in 1996, the Howard Government has delivered unprecedented funding to help parents balance their family and employment responsibilities.

Better-quality banking services delivered to Jarrahdale

Federal Member for Canning Don Randall is delighted the Jarrahdale community will soon have access to online banking services and billpay with the help of the Federal Government's Rural Transaction Centres program.

Mr Randall said, "Jarrahdale residents are set to benefit from the provision of additional services by being able to access online banking

services and online billpay services through the local postal outlet in a joint Commonwealth-Australia Post initiative.

"This initiative clearly demonstrates that this Government recognises that regional areas in the Canning electorate require improved banking services that many people living in the city take for granted."

Labor's plan for SMALL BUSINESS...

MORE CHANGE

MORE COMPLEXITY

MORE UNCERTAINTY

BACK ON THE ROLLER COASTER!

Australian small businesses are the backbone of our economy.

Over the past three years they have adjusted to the changes under the New Tax System.

Now, Labor want small businesses to change the way they do business...AGAIN!

By changing the BAS reporting system, Labor will be lumping small business with more change, more complexity and more uncertainty.

For example, Labor's plan does not take into account fluctuations in cash flow, which could lead to many small businesses overpaying GST!

It was this recycled Labor idea for small business at the last election that *The Australian's* Robert Gottliebson said was '...a quick way to go broke.' (*The Australian*, 15/10/01)

Randall fights for better deal for veterans

Federal Member for Canning Don Randall has declared he will continue to fight for veterans in his electorate to have better access to entitlements following the handing down of the independent review of veterans' entitlements.

Mr Randall said, "While the Howard Government has moved to deliver improved services for veterans in Armadale such as the introduction of veteran partnering arrangements with Galliers Private Hospital

(allowing doctors to admit Gold and White Card patients to the hospital without needing to obtain prior approval from the Department of Veterans' Affairs), the changes offered by Minister Vale, in my opinion, did not go far enough.

"I have met with many veterans across the electorate of Canning and believe they should have access to pensions which are indexed either to inflation or to male average total weekly earnings, whichever was the greater.

"It is totally unacceptable that other pension recipients are afforded the right to have their entitlements indexed in this way, and yet only war pensions are linked to inflation.

"Therefore, I remain determined to gain the fairest outcome for veterans in my electorate, who I believe deserve more for their efforts protecting our country and freedom. They have served us proudly and continue to do so. The least we can do is recognise the sacrifices they

have made and deliver a package that demonstrates we are serious about acknowledging their contribution.

"A pre-election commitment was made by this Government to fairly assess veterans' entitlements, and I don't believe this has been achieved yet. However, I am optimistic that the Prime Minister has committed to reviewing the proposed changes and that a better outcome will be achieved."