



The Randall Report

ISSUE 9 • NOVEMBER 2003

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

68 more University nursing places HUGE WIN for Peel region

Federal Member for Canning Don Randall was delighted with the announcement by Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Dr Brendan Nelson that the Murdoch University - Peel Campus is one of the big regional university winners by gaining an **extra** 68 nursing places over four years.

Mr Randall said, "The Howard Government has demonstrated it is serious about helping address the current nursing shortage with the allocation of these extra places which will allow more students in the Peel region to study nursing at the University next year. This news also has other essential flow on effects for the region offering improved employment outcomes for youth and putting more nurses into regional hospitals where there is an identified shortage.

"This Government recognises the Mandurah/Peel region has experienced rapid growth and strong demand for university places and not only are we providing more places for nursing at the campus, but have also delivered \$2.5 million for capital works at the Murdoch Peel Campus to ensure better facilities to meet this increasing demand."

Vice Chancellor Professor John Yovich said, "Murdoch University is also happy with the news as it will enable it to

start its university presence in collaboration with other educational institutions in the Peel region. Mr Randall's role in providing continuous support and advocating the importance of achieving a higher education presence in the Peel region through representations to Canberra, has been invaluable and is much appreciated by the University."

Mandurah Mayor Keith Holmes also welcomed the announcement saying, "The support offered by Mr Randall to the regional delegation to Canberra last year was instrumental in putting our case across and this announcement will be of enormous benefit to the whole community."

Mr Randall repeated the significance of this fantastic news acknowledging the benefits for both students at the University and the region as a whole. "The Peel region has a persistently high unemployment rate hovering around 14% and a youth unemployment rate of approximately 40%, so this news coupled with capital funding support for the Campus

from the Howard Government, represents a huge triumph.

"Congratulations to Murdoch University for their hard work in securing this outcome to help them continue delivering quality educational services to their students. I look forward to continuing working in partnership with them to help deliver greater outcomes for the Peel region in the Canning electorate."



■ Don Randall, Mayor Keith Holmes, Geoff Samuels, Greg Wooley (PDC) and Professor John Yovich discuss the good news

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

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

Unemployment when Simon Crean was Labor's Employment Minister



When Paul Keating was Prime Minister, Simon Crean was his Employment Minister - for more than 2 years. And almost one million Australians simply couldn't find a job.

Yet Mr Crean was so out of touch that he said: "The labour force statistics that have been released today are very good news for job seekers ... The unemployment rate has fallen to 10.6%." (Parliament, 10/2/94)

10.6%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, February 1994



Unemployment now

Unemployment is now at a 13 year low. The Howard Government has worked with small business to create 1.2 million new jobs. This has been possible because of responsible economic management.

And even more jobs would be created if Labor stopped playing politics - and passed the Government's unfair dismissal laws. Independent research predicts over 50,000 extra jobs will be created if these laws pass.



5.8%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, September 2003



Don's Desk

"In my view federal elections are essentially determined on economic and national security. It's how you secure our prosperity and how you secure our boundaries." Bob Carr, NSW Premier, The Australian, 28/06/03

One of Labor's longest standing state leaders made this statement and what he advocates essentially echoes the current policies and their successful implementation by the Howard Government.

Australia is currently in an economic position not seen since the 1980s - unemployment has dropped below 6% for the second consecutive month, home loan interest rates are at a 30-year low and inflation is at an annual average below 3%. Overseas investment in Australia is at an all time high and business confidence is at its highest in a decade.

Compare this climate with that of the Hawke/Keating Labor years of 17% home loan interest rates, 11% unemployment and Mr Keating's insistence on the necessity of "the recession we had to have."

The Howard Government's accomplishments have not happened by accident. They are the result of deliberate sound economic management strategies, getting the 'fundamentals' right and introducing tough, but necessary reform to make Australia a more productive, efficient and safer country.

The net result of economic good news is that it means **more** opportunities for all. It means **more** jobs, particularly for young people and school leavers. It also means **more** resources for those in need such as the working poor.

This is what Bob Carr means when he talks about securing our prosperity.

Our borders are also more secure. People do not have to be reminded about the ongoing war on terror. Australia continues to play its role both on a national and international scale. In addition, Australia's fair policies on illegal migrants are working and are now being adopted by countries such as Italy, the UK and USA because of their proven effectiveness.

While Australia can lay claim to being a model OECD economy there is still more to be done. The Howard Government has additional reforms to achieve better outcomes, yet this legislation is being irresponsibly blocked in the Senate. This legislation aims to restore the rule of law in the construction industry and reform Unfair Dismissal laws, which if successful would help create 50,000 more jobs. So far, the Senate has rejected this measure **16** times.

Other reforms aim to create better opportunities in the higher education system and deliver a stronger healthcare system for all Australians.

Yet, for opportunistic reasons the ALP

in conjunction with the Greens and Democrats continue to obstruct this vital reform. However, this Government will continue to persist with these measures because it is the right thing to do if we are to ensure you continue to benefit from a robust economy and secure borders.

Oh for a Bob Carr in Canberra on the Labor benches. He makes good sense.

Don Randall

Don Randall's mobile electorate office



Are you a long way from Don's office in Albany Highway, Kelmescott?

Would you like Don to visit your area?

Please let us know by calling 9390 1211

Water quality issues in Peel Inlet receive huge boost

Federal Environment and Heritage Minister, the Hon Dr David Kemp recently visited Falcon to announce a jointly funded \$2.1 million Federal and State Government initiative to improve water quality in the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary.

Mr Randall said, "The Peel-Harvey System is an internationally recognised Ramsar listed wetland which continues to be threatened by poor water quality. This commitment will set the scene for action over the medium to long term to improve the condition of the area and protect this fragile habitat."

"This announcement of which the Commonwealth is contributing nearly \$1.8 million through the Natural Heritage Trust, shows this Government is genuine about fixing environmental problems with the emphasis on a coordinated approach at a local level rather than a reliance on bureaucrats in Canberra.

"While the State Government is to be commended for its contribution, the Federal Government has contributed the



■ Minister Dr Kemp & Don Randall discuss the benefits of the new project for the Peel Inlet with facilitators Leigh Taylor and Cathy Lyons

bulk of the funds and I am hopeful the State will further expand on its commitment to protect our delicate waterways."

Seven projects will aim to reduce

pollution to coastal water quality hotspots through a range of measures such as identifying and implementing agricultural best management practices, establishing nutrient trading programs and supporting institutional reform.

Concerned about intruders and protecting your home?

The Federal Government is committed to making sure all Australians secure their homes to limit the likelihood of being burgled. Through the National Crime Prevention Program, a kit has been published to give you practical advice to ensure you are active in reducing the risk to you and your family as a result of home burglary.

If you would like a copy of 'A kit for protecting your home from Intruders', please call Don's office on 9390 1211 for a copy



Improved literacy standards are providing our children with an even better future.

In 1996, too many school children simply couldn't read and write at a satisfactory level. As a result, the Howard Government pursued a major policy to improve literacy and numeracy skills, with increased funding, agreed national standards and mandatory testing of children in years 3, 5, and 7. We now have in place a system to monitor and report student achievement and to assist those most in need of additional support. Literacy and numeracy skills have greatly improved, providing greater opportunities for young Australians into the future.

Pioneering Clontarf Football Academy backed with more funding

Don Randall is pleased the football program operating at the Clontarf Football Academy under Gerard Neesham, is finally getting the funding and attention it deserved and that a number of talented boys from the Canning electorate and across Western Australia, were directly benefiting through participation in the innovative program.

Mr Randall said, “The recent announcement by Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Dr Brendan Nelson that the Academy will receive \$500,000 is fantastic news, particularly given the difficulties faced over the years in securing funding. Founder Gerard Neesham has worked tirelessly to ensure students enrolled continue to reap the benefits of his very successful football training and education program.

“The Academy’s program has produced outstanding results. Dockers player Deon Woods was a former student and there are a number of currently enrolled students who have excellent chances of being drafted by football clubs across Australia. Waiting lists to join the program grow every day, retention rates have increased dramatically and student self-esteem has

risen because they know great opportunities are available to them.

“This additional funding from the Federal Government will assist greatly. I have no doubt we will see continued improvement in educational outcomes for students enrolled in the Academy with greater numbers finishing Year 12, with a flow on effect for jobs for students.”

Mr Neesham added, “Between the Academy and the College, of the 23 boys who completed the program last year, 20 are in meaningful employment or enrolled in further studies. These outcomes are important to Aboriginal people and to people in the street.”

Mr Randall said, “This funding is great news for those involved, but there is still a very real need for additional funds. I am hopeful this move by the Federal Government will encourage the State Government the program is a worthy recipient of assistance from them and I urge them to become co-sponsors.”

The Academy also receives funding and sponsorship from a wide range of local public and private sector organisations.

Supporting mature age workers

Don Randall continues to support calls for employers to recognise the skills and benefits of keeping mature workers as part of their workforce.

Fact: mature age workers have less absenteeism and sick leave, fewer accidents, provide a steadying influence on younger workers and stay longer at an organisation after training than younger workers.

“It is becoming increasingly important for businesses and the nation that we face up to the fact that with a rapidly ageing population and a decline in workforce growth, mature workers are an essential element of the workforce.

“They have a wealth of knowledge and abilities picked up over a lifetime of work experience”.

Over the next three years, the Howard Government will aim to get 50,000 mature age workers jobs through Job Network agencies.



■ Don Randall congratulates Gerard Neesham, watching on are current Clontarf students and Dockers star Dion Woods

Home ownership

THE FACTS

First Home Owners Scheme

- The Coalition was the first Federal Government to introduce a First Home Owners Scheme
- Since its introduction in July 2000 more than 480,000 grants have been made to first home buyers
- \$3.8 billion has been distributed

Inquiry into Cost of Housing

- The Coalition Government has asked the Productivity Commission to inquire into the affordability and availability of housing for families and individuals wishing to purchase their first home
- Specifically, the Commission will examine impediments to first home ownership and provide assessments on the feasibility of reducing or removing impediments
- The Productivity Commission will report to the Government early next year

Lowest interest rates in 30 years – and a STRONG ECONOMY

- Household mortgage interest rates of 6.5% are at their lowest in 35 years
- Under Labor, these rates peaked at 17% in 1990
- Australians are now saving \$3,950 per year on a \$100,000 home loan
- We have a strong, stable economy
- More than 1 million new jobs have been created since 1996 when the Coalition was elected.

GST only applies to 15% of homes for first home buyers

- **GST does not apply to the purchase of established homes**
- Around 85 % of first home buyers buy established homes – they do not pay GST
- GST does not apply to Stamp Duty; the States impose Stamp Duty on top of the GST
- ALL GST revenue goes to the States who are already better off than they would have been had tax reform not been implemented
- The GST replaced hidden, inefficient wholesale sales tax rates such as the 12% on items including light fittings, baths and kitchen sinks

Did you know?

- Over 53,000 first home owners in WA have received the First Home Owners grant
 - When Geoff Gallop was elected in 2001 the stamp duty payable on the median house price of \$163,000 was \$4,461. Now, his Government collects \$5,522 on the same priced house – an increase of \$1,061 (which equates to an increase of 23.7%).
- Source: REIA and Treasury

Premier Gallop increases tax by \$182 million this year alone!

This year an additional \$182 million of State taxes and charges have come into effect which means an **extra \$90 each year for every man woman and child** in WA.

These increases are in addition to the \$250 million extra in taxes the Gallop Government imposed in its first 2 State budgets - a total cost to every person in WA of about \$200 more in taxes each year.

The tax hikes include:

🔴 **Stamp duty on property conveyances:** up 15%. A family buying a \$200,000 home pays \$7,280 in tax - an extra \$930.

🔴 **Stamp duty on general insurance policies:** up 2% from 8% to 10%. A \$60,000 home and contents insurance policy has increased by about \$10 a year from \$640 to \$650.

🔴 **Stamp duty on motor vehicle**

insurance: up 2% from 8% to 10%. An increase of approx \$13 a year on a \$30,000 motor vehicle policy (based on 40-year-old driver).

🔴 **Motor vehicle compulsory third party insurance rates:** up 2.8% (about \$6 a year).

🔴 **Water charges:** up 3.3%, **sewerage charges:** up 3.3%, **drainage charges** up 3.3%, **public transport fares:** up 3%, **drivers licence fees:** up 2.8%, **Perth parking levy** (cost to business operators) up \$30 from \$150 to \$180, **Registrar of Births and Deaths fees** - change of name up \$25 to \$120, **birth, death and marriage certificates** up \$5 to \$35.

🔴 **Payroll tax rate** (jobs tax) up from 3.65% and 4.6% to a flat 6% for all businesses with a payroll of more than \$750,000. The average increase in tax for almost 4,000 small businesses would be \$4,500 a year. Businesses with payrolls of between \$1 million

and \$5 million, that typically would employ between 25 and 100 people, would pay as much as \$18,000 extra a year.

This is after Geoff Gallop said he would not raise taxes, but has then done so every year since being elected.

Mr Randall said that while the Howard Government was adopting measures to put more money into the pockets of his constituents, the Gallop Government was eroding these benefits with their tax policies. "In these good economic times, the Government should be providing tax relief, not preying on the hard earned money of parents, homebuyers and small businesses.

"These increases are in addition to hikes under their 2001-2002 budget. Such huge increases are hard to justify given the extra \$3,008.5M they receive in GST revenue this year and their cuts and reduction of services, particularly in health."

Minister Anderson consults local community on Bypass

Don Randall has congratulated Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Services, the Hon John Anderson after he accepted an invitation to come to the region and witness first hand the necessity of the Peel Deviation project coming to fruition.

Mr Randall said, "Subsequent to the very successful trip by the Peel Delegation to Canberra last year and that of Dawesville MLA, Arthur Marshall a few weeks ago, it is pleasing the Minister has now seen what the project is all about.

"While thus far Ms MacTiernan has reneged on any solid commitment or on even delivering an application to the Federal Government, I hope she will concede that unless she submits an application and commits her Government to this project, federal funding will be further delayed. "I have no doubt this visit by the

Deputy Prime Minister has enlightened him about just how vital the building of this infrastructure is for not only those who live in the area, but also to everyone else who is forced to endure the gridlock when they travel through Mandurah.

"It is important to reiterate that while the Minister's visit will not guarantee Federal Government funding, it has allowed him to more fully understand the necessity for this road and the need to persuade the Gallop Government that it is time it looked far more seriously at applying for appropriate federal funding than it has done in the past.

"The Minister's visit clearly demonstrates the Federal Government is willing to consult with the community on the Peel Deviation and that when or if, Ms MacTiernan ever gets around to applying for appropriate funding, the application will be given



■ Patrick Gallagher, Don Randall, Geoff Samuels and Minister Anderson witness traffic flow problems in Dawesville

due consideration. Once this occurs, the Peel Deviation can progress in an orderly fashion."

Tackling childhood obesity

- Australia is likely to overtake the United States as the fattest nation in the world within the next couple of decades.
- Some children spend 35 hrs a week watching TV and videos. A full working week!
- Over the past 15 years the number of overweight and obese Australian children has doubled and this alarming trend is worsening.
- 20% of young Australians are either overweight or obese. This means an increased risk for Type 2 diabetes, risk of premature death from heart disease, possible respiratory problems, poor self esteem, social exclusion, bone and joint problems and other health problems.
- More than 40% of Australian children play no sport or participate in physical activity.
- The National Health and Medical Research Council determines the

cost of obesity to the Australian community at \$810 million a year.

Mr Randall said, "I encourage parents to accept more responsibility for their children's health and ensure they eat sensibly and get enough exercise. Our children need to spend less time in front of video games and more time in the playground.

"We also need to set a good example ourselves. The best way to have active kids is to be active ourselves. Walk the family dog together or play a game of backyard cricket before a healthy dinner.

"The Howard Government last year launched the Healthy Kids Australia newsletter which gives parents some simple and practical advice on helping our children lead happy and healthy lives."

This quarterly newsletter is available from child care services, Centrelink and Family Assistance office.

Fighting meningococcal disease

Last year the Howard Government approved a national meningococcal disease vaccination program which provides free meningococcal vaccines for all Australian children aged 12 months and 15 years. This year, the first in the program provided free vaccines for those aged 16 and 17 years to ensure the greatest number of children in high risk age groups for meningococcal disease received access to free vaccines.

Costing \$41 million to implement in its first year, a long-term commitment has also been made to fund a national meningococcal vaccination program for the next 14 years. This is a responsible and pro-active approach to meningococcal disease management in this country.

Mr Randall is asking the community to offer their support to The Amanda Young Foundation formed by local residents Lorraine and Barry Young, who tragically lost their daughter Amanda to the disease and who work tirelessly to raise awareness about the disease and provide ongoing support to victims and their families.

Please send your donation to:

The Amanda Young Foundation
Lorraine and Barry Young
PO Box 855
WEST PERTH WA 6872

Ph: 9398 7275
Fax: 9398 7625

www.amandayoungfoundation.org.au

Fat Scale

0g	1 cup cooked pasta
0g	1 jacket potato
0g	1 banana
0g	1 tub low-fat yoghurt
1g	1 slice bread
1g	1 cup baked beans
3g	4 cracker biscuits
3g	2 plain biscuits
4g	100g lean beef stir-fry strips (raw)
4g	1 cup reduced fat milk
4g	1 grilled fish fillet
5g	1 hard-boiled egg
6g	3 slices of lean roast beef (raw)
7g	100g lean lamb or beef mince (raw)
7g	1 tub regular yoghurt
8g	135g lean rump steak (raw)
8g	2 cubes reduced fat cheese
10g	2 scoops creamy ice cream
10g	1 cup regular milk
11g	2 cubes cheese
12g	1 slice pizza
12g	1 packet corn chips
13g	1 blueberry muffin
14g	1 serve 2-minute noodles
15g	1 thin sausage
15g	1 croissant
15g	1 tbsp butter
17g	6 chicken nuggets
17g	1 plain hamburger
17g	1 spring roll
23g	2 slices of salami
23g	1 sausage roll
24g	1 battered and deep-fried fish
26g	1 hamburger with cheese
30g	1/2 BBQ Chicken
43g	1 serve spinach pie

The higher fat foods are also high in saturated fats.

THE SENATE REPORT

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Howard Government helps sustain our precious water resources with new National Water Initiative

Why do we need water reform?

As the world's second driest continent Australia has to use its limited water resources wisely. In the past, wasteful and inappropriate water use has created significant problems (rising water tables, increased salinity of groundwater and soil, decreasing quality of surface water, increasing incidence of algal blooms and degradation of coastal areas.)

Reform is vital in order to prevent further problems. It was on this basis the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to the water reform framework.

Australians use more than 14,600 million cubic metres of water a year - equivalent to over 30 times the capacity of Sydney Harbour. Over 70% is used for irrigation, a further 21% goes to urban and industrial uses and the remaining 9% to additional rural activities.

Water is fundamental to securing our natural and economic wealth and is the basis of one of our largest industries, accounting for about \$90 billion of infrastructure investment and contributing some \$6 billion to annual revenues through irrigated agricultural production.

Many of Australia's rivers have highly variable flows and droughts and floods are a regular occurrence. Although much of Australia's aquatic flora and fauna has adapted, people have not. The inconsistency of flows has led us to extensively develop our rivers and groundwater resources for irrigated agriculture and domestic water supplies.

Australia has more than 300 large dams. Use of groundwater has also grown significantly since World War II and we now have more than 500,000 wells and a groundwater asset base valued at \$6.5 billion.

In recent years the interdependence between groundwater and the broader natural resource base has been increasingly recognised. *The emphasis of government policy has now moved away from development to sustainable management.*



Only a few Australian rivers remain unaffected by human activity and in many areas where the surface water supply is scarce, unreliable, or fully allocated, extensive use is made of groundwater resources. Localised overuse of groundwater, together with inadequate management, is creating resource degradation through processes such as depletion, salt water intrusion and pollution.

What is the Howard Government doing to address this problem?

The good news is that the Federal Government has been able to convince State Governments to agree on the scope of a 'National Water Initiative'. The final agreement on the best way to manage and conserve our valuable water will be finalised by 2004, establishing principles that will lead to better, more productive and sustainable water use.

When it is finalised, the 'National Water Initiative' will affect every single Australian, whether they live in the city or the bush. Our lives depend on staggering quantities of water, so it is important to every Australian who eats steak (which takes 50,000 litres of water per kilogram to produce), drinks fruit juice (which takes 780 litres of water per litre of juice to produce), or has butter (which takes 18,070 litres per kilogram to produce) on their bread (which takes 1,010 litres per kilogram of wheat to produce)*.

* Source: Media Release, 29 August 2003, *National Water Initiative*, Hon John Anderson - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services

The Howard Government's 'National Water Initiative' will mean new business opportunities in industries such as manufacturing, food processing, environmental technology and tourism. It will transform the future of the Australian farm sector, providing farmers and their banks with the security they need to make investments confidently, ending the confusion and uncertainty about water rights that have been crippling the sector. In Western Australia alone, the initiative could increase the value of farm production by billions of dollars a year.

