



# The Schultz Hume Bulletin



Experienced hands working for Hume

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## A message from Alby

During my time in politics I have sometimes found it necessary to take a stand on mainstream "community" issues which have been subjected to extreme pressure from minority groups. These groups, in my opinion, have used the "politically correct" environment fostered by weak-kneed, left-wing sympathetic politicians to undermine the values of our traditional democratic and Christian lifestyle.

The most recent being moves to change the definition of marriage to accommodate same sex couples who are demanding the right to marry. I see this issue as being different to,



Alby has received some great entries in his eye patch competition but hasn't yet decided on a winner. For a chance to win a bottle of wine signed by the Prime Minister, send Alby a creative but practical eye patch.

as an example, same sex couples seeking access to property, which in many instances are or could be legitimate.

Preserving and protecting what is accepted as the mainstream community's value of the marriage and union of male and female goes to the very heart of the traditional family unit that has been the core of our Christian society.

Marriage is a bedrock institution which has endured for thousands of years across many cultures and religions and it needs to be protected.

There is growing evidence to suggest that the current common law definition of marriage, being "the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life", is under threat.

That is precisely why I and 30 of my parliamentary colleagues recently wrote to the Prime Minister seeking his support to codify in legislation the current common law definition.

We have asked the Prime

Minister to remove the growing doubt about the future of marriage as a fundamental institution in society and avoid any threat to its definition. We have strongly recommended amendments be made to the Marriage Act and any other relevant legislation to achieve this.

I am also concerned that the Australian Democrats and the Greens have already moved and voted for an amendment to the Marriage Act which will allow the marriage between two men or two women.

So far the ALP has not supported this amendment but this could change, especially given the ALP's recent support of a motion in the Senate calling for full recognition of same sex couples in Federal law.

Traditional mainstream marriage is an enduring social institution which benefits the family members, it provides for stability in society and more specifically it benefits children by ensuring their welfare is maximised.

## INSIDE this issue ...

- Make sure you join the Medicare safety net
- Latest funding announcements
- Did you know ... tobacco

## plus ...

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## STOP PRESS!

Alby was thrilled to host the Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard, in the Hume electorate recently.

The Prime Minister visited the Southern Highlands on June 11 to enjoy lunch at Bowral's Centennial Winery and officially open the new Wollondilly Anglican College at Tahmoor.

"Let me just say, the Prime Minister was most impressed by the support he received at both events," he said.



A group of Year 10 students from Oxley College visited the Australian War Memorial in March, during which Alby was asked to join them for a wreath laying ceremony.



Alby visited Hill Top (pictured) and Colo Vale Public Schools in March to unveil new work valued at more than \$8M.



Health Minister Tony Abbott was in Goulburn last month as part of Pollie Pedal 2004, which in Goulburn alone raised more than \$1000 for the Millennium Foundation. He is pictured with Goulburn resident Darrell Spence, who was on the ride, as well as Darrell's parents Mr and Mrs Spence.

# Latest grants



## New Industries Development Program

Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to assist in taking an agribusiness product, technology or service through the formation of chain relationships, pilot trials and development of business strategies and projects to a state of readiness for full-scale commercial investment.

## Local Answers

Local Answers gives communities the power to develop their own solutions to local problems and helps them help themselves. It provides funding for small-scale projects developed by local communities in response to local issues.

## Threatened Species Network

Managed by the Threatened Species Network, this program encourages communities to take long-term responsibility for the ongoing health of our natural environment, specifically targeting the needs of species and ecological communities recognised as threatened by the Australian Government.

## Veteran and Community Grants

These grants aim to maintain and improve the independence and quality of life of members of the veteran community by providing financial assistance for activities, services and projects that sustain and/or enhance their wellbeing.

For more information go to [www.grantslink.gov.au](http://www.grantslink.gov.au)



# On the web

## Australian Law Online

[www.law.gov.au](http://www.law.gov.au)

Australian Law Online provides access to clear, understandable, user-friendly information about the Australian legal system. It also allows you to access current legislation.

## Area Consultative Committees

[www.acc.gov.au](http://www.acc.gov.au)

Area Consultative Committees provide an important link between the Federal Government and Australians and work to identify funding opportunities, priorities and development strategies for their local regions.

## tel:info

[www.telinfo.gov.au](http://www.telinfo.gov.au)

This site provides information about telecommunications services. Its objective is to keep rural Australia informed about telecommunications services, consumer rights, Government programs and initiatives and industry development.

# The Budget 2004



Prime Minister

Dear Fellow Australian,

Australia has faced some difficult challenges in recent years, including financial collapse in our region, SARS, terrorism, war and an ongoing severe drought.

We have withstood these challenges, not through luck, but through the hard work of everyday Australians and a disciplined approach by the Government to economic management.

Now, having listened to the concerns of Australians, this Budget will further protect, secure and build Australia's future, by:

- Providing more help for Australia's most important building block - our families;
- Meeting the challenges of an ageing population;
- Further bolstering our national security; and
- Investing more in our schools, including a National Values Framework, for the benefit of the next generation.

This Budget continues our strategy that has produced seven budget surpluses and repaid \$70 billion of Labor's \$96 billion debt. Responsible economic management has helped bring unemployment, inflation and interest rates down to their lowest levels in a generation and has provided solid conditions for Australia's future in an uncertain world.

The Budget also gives something back to the decent, hardworking Australians who underpin our strength as a nation.

Yours sincerely,

## Benefits for Australia

- \$19 billion for Australian families: the largest family assistance package ever put forward by an Australian Government.
- Tax cuts to make sure that more than 80% of all taxpayers will pay a top rate of 30% or less.
- \$2.2 billion aged care package to provide more places and better care.
- A further \$755 million to upgrade our national security.
- \$1.5 billion of extra Defence spending including the purchase of two additional Airborne Early Warning Control Aircraft and increased capabilities for our F/A-18 Hornets.



## A Stronger Economy

A strong economy means more people can find work and keep jobs, home interest rates can be kept low, older Australians can look forward to dignity in retirement and families can have more choices.

This budget delivers the Coalition's seventh surplus in nine budgets. \$70 billion of Labor's \$96 billion debt has been repaid

saving around \$5.5 billion per year on the debt interest bill.

At around 5.75%, unemployment is at the lowest levels for over two decades, while interest rates are at around 30 year lows.

## Help for Families

Having built a stronger economy, the Coalition is in a position to give more help to our country's most important building block - our families.

The family assistance package, worth \$19.2 billion over five years, is the largest ever put forward by an Australian Government.

Two million families will benefit from an increase of \$600 a year in the maximum and base rates of Family Tax Benefit (A) for each dependent child. Each family receiving FTB (A) in 2003-04 will also

receive a payment of \$600 per child before 30 June 2004.

The withdrawal rate between the maximum and base rates of FTB (A) will also be further reduced from 30% to 20% while families receiving FTB (B) will benefit from a reduction in the income test withdrawal rate to particularly benefit women returning to part-time work.

To help families on the birth of a child, a new maternity payment of \$3,000 will be introduced, increasing to \$5,000 by July 2008.

The Budget also provides 40,000 more outside school hours places and 4,000 more family day care places to assist families to meet their work and family responsibilities.

## Rewarding Hard Work

Building on substantial across the board tax cuts in 2000/01 and 2003/04, the income threshold for



# Protecting, Securing, Bu

“ This Budget is designed to keep our economy strong so that people can find work and keep jobs; so that interest rates for homebuyers are kept low; so that older Australians can look forward to dignity in retirement; so that families have more choices.

*Treasurer Peter Costello, E*

## Upgrading our National Security

In uncertain times there can be no higher priority than protecting Australia's freedom and way of life.

The Coalition has committed \$3.1 billion over seven years to upgrade our national security since September 11, including a further \$755 million over five years in this budget.

A further \$270 million is invested in our intelligence agencies for more intelligence officers, checks and information sharing, while a further \$207 million has been committed to protective security including plain clothes sky marshals for more international flights to more locations.

An additional \$150 million will be allocated to help secure our borders, including funding new automated face-recognition biometric technology to combat identity fraud and an upgrade of visa processing systems to lessen the risk of terrorists entering Australia.

## Bolstering our Defence

New defence measures in this budget exceed \$1.5 billion, bringing to nearly \$40 billion the total amount of additional

defence spending by the Coalition since 1996. \$326 million will buy two additional Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft. \$50 million will provide our F/A-18 Hornet fighters with the capability to conduct all-weather precision bombing operations, while \$20 million will provide the CF-130J Hercules fleet with better protection against surface-to-air missiles and small arms fire.

Logistics support will be boosted by injecting \$815.6 million over four years while defence force personnel accommodation will be enhanced with a \$356.5 million package. \$705 million is allocated for new and upgraded Defence facilities as well as maintenance of airfields, naval bases, barracks and training ranges.

## Keeping our Commitments

Along with over 30 other countries, Australia is playing a crucial role in securing a new democracy in Iraq - providing training for new Iraqi defence forces, contributing to security and providing air traffic control at Baghdad Airport. This budget allocates \$132 million for the Australian Defence Force's efforts in Iraq - it



the 42% tax rate will be raised from \$52,001 to \$58,000 in July 2004 and to \$63,001 in July 2005.

The income threshold for the 47% tax rate will be raised from \$62,501 to \$70,001 in July 2004 and \$80,001 in July 2005. This means that more than 80% of taxpayers will pay a top tax rate of 30% or less for at least the next four years.

## Preparing for an Ageing Population

The Coalition will increase the incentive for low to middle income Australians to boost their retirement income by increasing the maximum Government superannuation co-contribution from \$1,000 to \$1,500. The Superannuation Surcharge will be reduced to 7.5% by 2006-07.

The Coalition is committing an extra \$2.2 billion to aged care. This

includes an extra \$878 million to aged care providers to improve the quality of care, an extra \$513 million to improve fire safety and building standards, and an extra \$58 million to help lift the number of aged care places allocated over the next three years to 27,900.

The quality of care in aged care homes will be improved by enhancing the skills of workers in aged care homes, while 1,600 aged care nurses will begin training over the next four years.

## Recognising Carers

People who are devoted to caring for disabled people are Australia's unsung heroes. The budget can afford to deliver more help and there is no group more deserving of it.

\$255 million will be provided for one-off bonuses of \$1,000 for the 80,000 people on a Carer Payment and \$600 for the 300,000 recipients of a



Carer Allowance.

From 1 July 2005, the Coalition will allocate \$107 million to enable the approximately 13,000 carers who provide substantial levels of personal care but don't live with the recipient, to receive the Carer Allowance.

A further \$99 million will be allocated to expand the access of carers to respite services.

# Building Australia's Future

We can't do these things without a strong economy. But it would be foolish to think the challenges are over. Economic management requires careful planning, hard work, and sound choices in difficult situations. Economic management is not an accident or a fluke.

Budget Speech, 11/5/2004

is not the Australian way to cut and run. \$20 million is also allocated for an expected extension of our contribution in East Timor.

## Investing in the Next Generation

The Coalition Government will continue to provide record funding for education. Over the next four years the Australian Government will increase funding for schools by \$8 billion to \$31.3 billion. This will be conditional on the states implementing standards and reporting to parents, because the Coalition strongly believes

that parents have a right to know how their children are doing at school.

The Coalition will provide \$2.6 billion over five years in new funding for universities and deliver reforms that allow universities to better tailor their courses to student demand.

The Coalition will further increase our focus on the 70% of students who do not go directly to university by spending more than \$725 million on New Apprenticeships. Currently 406,900 Australians are training as apprentices.

## Values in Education

Every Australian child needs to have an understanding of values and our democratic way of life. An average of \$1,600 per school will be provided for values, civics and citizenship education.

To meet parents' expectations that their school should foster values such as honesty, courage, courtesy and doing one's best, every school in the country will receive funding to conduct forums on values education. Drug education forums will also be held to warn children about the dangers of drugs.



## Small Business

Small businesses that are below the registration threshold and are voluntarily registered for the GST will now be able to report and pay GST annually, instead of quarterly. This will reduce compliance costs for up to 740,000 small businesses as well as 30,000 non-profit organisations.

## Backing our Ability

The Coalition is providing a major boost to science and innovation through a \$5.3 billion package that strengthens the successful *Backing Australia's Ability* programme.

This will include \$305 million extra for the CSIRO National Research Flagships to ensure research into issues of national importance.

## Better Roads and Rail

In order to increase the efficiency and productivity of our economy, an extra \$3.1 billion will be invested over the next five years to upgrade our road and rail systems. This will improve the safety of Australia's major highways and make it quicker and cheaper to transport freight.

## Quality Health Care

The Budget ensures that spending on health has more than doubled under the Coalition, from \$17 billion in 1996-97 to \$35 billion. Medicare has been strengthened with a new Safety Net that protects Australians from high out-of-hospital medical bills, funding for 1500 more doctors and 1600 more practice nurses as well as more bulk-billing incentives.

In this Budget help will be given to those who find it difficult to control diabetes with injections, while profoundly deaf children will be assisted with funding for Cochlear Implant speech processors. Extra funding will ensure veterans on gold and white cards are able to visit specialists.

## Protecting our Environment

The Budget provides an extra \$300 million to the *Natural Heritage Trust* that has already involved 400,000 Australians in over 12,000 environmental projects. There is a further

\$30 million to protect the Barrier Reef as well as \$200 million to help repair the Murray Darling Basin.

## Regional Australia

The worst drought in our history has had a profound impact over the last two years. The Coalition expects to provide around \$1.1 billion in direct drought assistance to farmers and their communities over the period 2002-03 to 2005-06.

Self-reliant communities will be encouraged by providing \$78 million to the *Regional Partnerships Programme* while \$236 million will continue *Advancing Australia Programmes* like *FarmBis*, *FarmHelp* and the *Rural Financial Counselling Service*.



## They said it ...

"The additional assistance to families plus tax cuts will add an average of around \$440 to household pockets per month, which on its own will potentially lift average housing affordability in Australia by around 6 per cent in 2004/05."

*Housing Industry Association, 11/5/04*

"The Budget has consolidated the strength of the economy while addressing the problems on the road ahead."

*Australian Industry Group, 11/5/04*

"The infrastructure funding increase is significant and we applaud the Government's recognition of this important issue."

*National Farmers Federation, 11/5/04*

"Medicines Australia has welcomed the \$2 billion aged-care package announced in the Federal Budget as critical to our ageing population."

*Medicines Australia, 11/5/04*

"This Budget ... will provide a major boost to long-term savings."

*Investment & Financial Services Australia, 11/5/04*

FEDERAL BUDGET 2004

**\$750m to fight terrorism threat**

*Herald Sun 12/5/04*

**\$1000 for caring**

*Helpers win bonus for 12/5/04*

*Courier Mail 6/5/04*

**Security agencies boosted by \$232m**

**2 million families win \$600**

*Australian 12/5/04*

**Record funding to build for the future**

*Australian 12/5/04*

**Extra cash for roads**

*Herald Sun 12/5/04*

# Recent funding announcements

## **\$732,000 for roads**

Approval was earlier this year announced under the National Black Spot Program for four projects within the electorate of Hume, with a total estimated cost of \$732,000.

The funding was for work on Murrumbateman Road, Burragorang Road, Picton Road, Werombi Road and Brown Hill Road.

## **\$8.4M for soil and water**

The Lachlan Catchment Management Authority will be able to improve soil and water quality in the Lachlan catchment during 2003-04 with funding totalling more than \$8.4 million from the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.

## **\$155,000 to support environment projects**

Groups and individuals in Young, Harden, Boorowa, Yass and Crookwell were last month allocated

a total of more than \$155,000 from the Australian Government Envirofund. Their projects include fencing off of sensitive areas, regeneration of native vegetation and tree planting.

## **\$230,000 for the elderly**

Home and Community Care in NSW received a boost in February with Minister for Ageing Julie Bishop announcing \$9.8 million in funding for NSW HACC projects. A total of eight existing projects in the Hume electorate were allocated \$230,896 in additional funding. They were Interchange Wingecarribee Inc, Wingecarribee Adult Day Care Centres Inc and Greater Argyle Council.

## **\$4000 for Boorowa RSL**

Access to the Boorowa War Memorial will be improved with a grant from the Saluting Their Service program. The funding was announced during March.

## **\$92,000 for small business**

The Australian Capital Region Development Council will be able to run a marketing skills development program for small businesses with its grant under the Small Business Enterprise Cultural Program.

## **\$32,000 for volunteers**

Seventeen volunteer groups across the electorate were last month allocated grants ranging from \$90 to \$4400 to purchase small equipment such as computers, cameras and furniture.

## **\$1.9M for local catchment**

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority will be able to map biodiversity, introduce a weed control strategy and control pest animals in the region with \$1.9 million from the Natural Heritage Trust announced during April. The funding will also allow for the employment of several community support officers, including one in Goulburn.

## *Wedding anniversaries*

**Albert & Joan Burton of Towrang - 50 years**

**Rex & Dulcie Percival of Boorowa - 50 years**

**Clarence & Violet De Britt of Young - 50 years**

**Geoffrey & Joy Gardiner of Werombi - 50 years**

**Cecil & Audrey Close of Young - 70 years**

## *Birthdays*

**Elsie Troy of Young - 90 years**

**Janet Elizabeth Limn of Yass - 90 years**

**Ted Cross of Goulburn - 90 years**

### **Celebrating a milestone?**

My office can arrange for congratulatory messages to be sent to couples celebrating their 50th, 60th and subsequent wedding anniversaries and also to people celebrating their 90th or 100th birthdays.

To find out more, simply contact my office or visit [www.albyschultz.com.au](http://www.albyschultz.com.au)

## **\$245,000 TO CONSERVE OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE**

The communities of Berrima, Joadja, Harden and Gunning will be able to restore and conserve important local buildings with support from the Government's Cultural Heritage Grants program. Nationwide almost \$3.5 million has been allocated this year.

■ **The Anglican Church Property Trust** in Berrima will conserve and maintain Holy Trinity Anglican Church with a grant of \$85,850.

■ **Berrima Courthouse Trust** will be able to repair the old Berrima Courthouse with a grant of \$25,000.

■ **The Joadja Whiskey Co.** aims to protect and conserve a series of D-shaped retorts from the old mining town with a grant of \$20,000.

■ **JK Leneham of Harden** will be able to conserve the old shearing shed at Beggan Beggan with the help of \$75,000.

■ **Upper Lachlan Council** has been allocated almost \$40,000 to restore Gunning Courthouse.

# Make sure you join the safety net

The Hume electorate was chosen by the Department of Health and Ageing recently to launch a national awareness campaign for the MedicarePlus safety net.

While Medicare has always given you free treatment as a public patient in a public hospital, it doesn't always cover the full amount of costs incurred outside hospital.

To register your family for the safety net:

- visit your local Medicare office
- request a form from Alby's office, or
- call 1800 011 163 .

The new safety net means that once your out-of-pocket expenses for visits to the doctor or tests reaches the relevant threshold, Medicare will give you back an additional 80 per cent on top of your normal rebate.

For those who have

a Commonwealth Concession Card or are receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A, the safety net is \$300 a year, while for others the amount is \$700.

All families and couples must complete a safety net registration form so their expenses can be calculated.

Single people are automatically registered and don't need to do anything.

Examples of services where costs count towards the safety net are GP and specialist consultations, ultrasounds, blood tests, CT scans, x-rays and pap smears.



**Health Minister Tony Abbott took the opportunity to sign his family up for the Medicare safety net during a visit to Goulburn recently. He is pictured doing the paperwork with Goulburn Medicare branch manager Sharon Greenough.**

## Did you know ... tobacco

When you inhale cigarette smoke thousands of chemicals get into your bloodstream and can travel throughout your body. These chemicals cause damage to the macula (the most sensitive part of the retina, at the back of your eye). Tiny blood vessels can burst through the macula, leading to irreversible damage, or alternatively, the cells of the macula slowly die. Both ultimately lead to loss of vision.

At this stage, there is no research to confirm at what point the damage occurs, however it is known that the process of macular degeneration is the result of progressive damage over many years. The condition is not usually detected until people are in their 50s or older.

Your risk of macular degeneration will be reduced if you quit smoking, however existing damage to the eyes can't be repaired, particularly once vision is affected.



**Saluting our quiet achievers**

**ALLAN 'JOCK' RUDD**  
**Goulburn**

Pass down the halls of Goulburn Base Hospital on a Sunday morning and you're likely to run into one of the nicest blokes you will ever meet.

Jock Rudd, a retired butcher, is a much-loved identity in Goulburn who spends his spare time brightening the lives of the sick and the elderly.

He visits the local hospitals regularly to have a chat and spread some good cheer amongst those less fortunate than himself.

"Jocky Rudd is such a good bloke, everybody loves him," Alby said.

"The contribution he has made to the Goulburn community is immeasurable.

"I hope you get a good report!" he says to the oldies as he strolls on out the door, knowing that he's done his bit for the day."

Not only is Jock well known about town for his compassion and care for the sick and elderly, he's also known as a bit of sports historian.

He's passionate about rugby league, knows a thing or two about boxing and can tell you anything you want to know about Goulburn's sporting past.

Over the years Jock and his wife Phyllis, who runs a local fashion store, have earned the love and respect of the Goulburn community.

Although but a small token, the community a few years back named Jock Rudd Citizen of the Year.

"Well done and congratulations Jocky. You deserve it," Alby said.

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