



### From Tony's Desk

Welcome to a special edition of my newsletter: Tony's Report, where I have the opportunity to fill you in on some of the work I am doing in Parliament.

Every day the House of Representatives deals with various Bills and Motions. Much of this concerns the general day-to-day operations of Government, but there are also a number of Bills that I believe will be of interest to the electorate of O'Connor.

In this newsletter, you will be able to see some of the key issues that the House of Representatives is dealing with, and I encourage you all to contact my office and give me your thoughts on these issues.

With Parliament currently in recess, I will be taking the chance to get out into the electorate and find out what issues are important to you.

I look forward to seeing you all as I travel across the electorate at the start of 2011.

### National Broadband Network

I was disappointed to see the Government vote against the recent NBN Transparency Bill.

This Bill would see the National Broadband Network subjected to a business plan and a cost-benefit analysis.

When completed, the NBN will be the largest infrastructure project ever undertaken in the history of our country – costing more than \$46 billion - and I believe it is appropriate that it goes through the proper costing analysis

to address some of the questions the Australian public may have.

While I am very supportive of high-speed internet access for the electorate, I believe financial transparency is important considering the large scope of the project.

### Compulsory Student Fees

The Government has recently passed the *Student Services and Amenities Bill* – a new Bill which will increase university fees for students wishing to enrol in university in 2011, creating a further barrier to higher education.

The *Student Services and Amenities Bill* will see students forced to pay an additional \$250 each year for amenities they may not wish to – or even be able to – access.

Regional students living in O'Connor who seek to access higher education will be hit the hardest by these new fees. Country students and their families already have a huge burden when it comes to living away from home and providing for themselves while attending university.

The Government needs to offer more support for regional students, not introduce more barriers to higher education.

## Do you support same sex marriage?

Parliament has recently ruled that each Member of Parliament should consult with their electorate to gauge the community response to same sex marriage.

Please let me know how you feel by answering the following question and posting it to my electorate office.

I will use your feedback when choosing how to cast my vote in Parliament when this issue is raised in 2011.

### Do you support legislation to legalise same sex marriage?

Yes

No

Name

Postcode

Signature

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## Petrol Sniffing in Remote Communities

The effects of petrol sniffing are devastating in some of the isolated Indigenous communities in O'Connor, and I am keen to see this issue tackled through the roll-out of Opal fuel.

Opal fuel is unleaded petrol which has extremely low levels of aromatics – removing the 'high' petrol sniffers get when they sniff normal unleaded fuel.

Earlier this year, the Federal Government announced a \$2.3 million program to roll out Opal fuel in the Northern Goldfields, Central Desert and Ngaanyatjarra Lands to address the issue of petrol sniffing by mid-2010, however the roll out of Opal fuel into the Northern Goldfields has yet to occur.

During Question Time I was able to raise this issue with the Federal Minister for Indigenous Health, Hon Warren Snowdon.

Mr Snowdon explained there has been a difficulty in establishing a storage facility in Kalgoorlie, but he hoped to have the

situation remedied in coming months.

Indigenous healthcare is unfortunately a major issue in this country, and I hope to see the Federal Government address this as a matter of priority.

## Website

My new website is now operational. You can keep up to date with all my latest media releases and speeches, and the site also features information about me and the O'Connor electorate, a photo gallery, and useful links. Check it out at [www.tonymcrook.com.au](http://www.tonymcrook.com.au)

## New Research and Development changes

I recently voted for new legislation that will make it much easier for businesses to undertake research and development, through the implementation of a new R&D Tax Credit.

This new R&D Tax Credit will deliver greater incentives to small and medium businesses – the engine room of our economy.

Boosting investment in research and development is essential to strengthening Australian businesses, so they become more innovative,

productive, and able to compete in the global marketplace. This will then flow on to create and preserve more jobs for Australians.

The new R&D Tax Credit will deliver \$1.6 billion annually for business R&D in Australia.

## Electorate Offices

My electorate offices are now operational in Albany and Kalgoorlie.

I am dividing my time between my offices and the wider electorate when Parliament is not sitting in Canberra.

If you have an issue or concern, please contact my staff at the office nearest to you.

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