



PAUL FLETCHER MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BRADFIELD



JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE *from Paul*

Dear Resident,

I know that many people in Bradfield are worried about the rising cost of living, rising interest rates and how much tax you get hit with.

With over a third of people in Bradfield having a mortgage (often a hefty one given the cost of housing locally), ten successive interest rates in a row have hit hard.

That is why this year's Commonwealth Budget, released in early May, was so disappointing.

At a time when we need to stop the cost of living rising so fast, the Albanese Labor Government has increased spending by \$185 billion over the last year.

Sadly, that will fuel inflation not help contain it.

In this newsletter you will find more information about Labor's Budget; the Liberal Party's positive policy proposals; and about other priorities I have been pursuing.

As ever, if I can help you with any issue in dealing with government, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Fletcher
Federal Member for Bradfield

KEY FACTS ABOUT THIS BUDGET

▶ GOVERNMENT SPENDING HAS

RISEN



\$185 billion after a year of Labor

▶ TAX PAID BY AUSTRALIANS WILL

RISE



by over \$300 billion

▶ UNEMPLOYMENT FORECAST TO

RISE



to 4.5 per cent by mid-2025

▶ REAL WAGES



NOT GROWN

▶ GAS & ELECTRICITY BILLS WILL GO



UP

by nearly \$500

POSITIVE PROPOSALS FROM THE OPPOSITION

As usual Budget week finished with the Leader of the Opposition's Budget in Reply speech, where Peter Dutton laid out key policy directions the Coalition would pursue in government, aimed at **strengthening the economy and helping families**.

Examples include allocating an additional \$9 million for women's health and restoring 20 Medicare-subsidised psychological sessions, up from the current ten. We have also vowed to ban sports betting advertising during and an hour either side of televised matches.

The Opposition also supports some sensible measures in this Budget. We will support the Instant Asset Write Off for small businesses, investment in women's safety measures and additional funding for the Department of Veterans' Affairs to help with payment processing times.

Whether you are a family, retiree or small business owner, the Opposition will continue to fight for you and ensure your voices are heard.



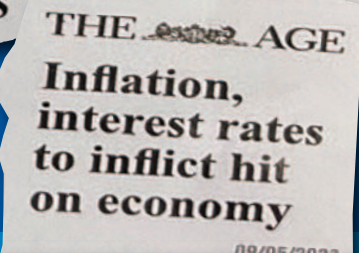
CONSECUTIVE

INTEREST RATE RISES

CONTRIBUTING TO MORTGAGE PAIN

Before the election Mr Albanese promised 'cheaper mortgages' for Australians. That never happened. Instead, under Mr Albanese as Prime Minister we have seen ten interest rate rises in a row as the Reserve Bank struggles to get inflation under control.

Unfortunately, because Labor has brought down a typical big spending, big taxing Labor Budget, the risk is that it will add to inflationary pressures - and in turn leave the Reserve Bank with little choice but to hike interest rates further. This Budget is bad news for everybody in Bradfield who is paying off a mortgage.



LABOR IS COMING AFTER YOUR SUPER

In addition to increasing your electricity prices, Labor is coming after your taxes. We've already seen the government double the tax rate, from 15 per cent to 30 per cent, on superannuation balances above \$3 million.

People work hard to grow their superannuation to secure their retirements, and they shouldn't be punished because of the government's inability to manage money.



Update on the INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

The national conversation about the proposed Indigenous Voice to Parliament continues.

When Parliament comes to vote on the Bill which authorises the referendum to be put to the people, the Liberal Party will support the Bill. I welcome feedback on this constitutional reform and will keep the community informed of any significant updates.

With 1.5 million more people coming to Australia - where's the plan for infrastructure?

This Budget revealed that 1.5 million more people will come to Australia over five years - but at the same time the government is cutting back on Infrastructure spending.

I strongly support immigration. It has been key to our country's growth and success.

In my four years as Urban Infrastructure Minister, I worked to deliver the Coalition's \$120 billion infrastructure pipeline. New infrastructure is key to supporting a growing population. We have seen this in our local area, with Liberal state and federal governments working together to deliver NorthConnex.

But the current government does not seem to have a plan. Australia's population will grow strongly - but Mr Albanese is reducing not increasing infrastructure spending, and he cannot tell us how the new housing that is needed will be delivered.



New 60-day dispensing rules **PUT PRESSURE** on local pharmacists

Under new rules announced in the Budget, many patients living with a chronic condition will be able to buy 60-days' worth of common PBS-listed medicines for the price of a single prescription, rather than the current one month's supply.

Of course it is good if patients are able to save time and money. But if it puts local pharmacies at risk, or requires them to reduce their services, that would be very troubling.

The government's own Office of Impact Analysis has found that pharmacies stand to lose on average \$158,000 a year. Pharmacists have raised concerns that they may need to reduce staff numbers and operating hours.

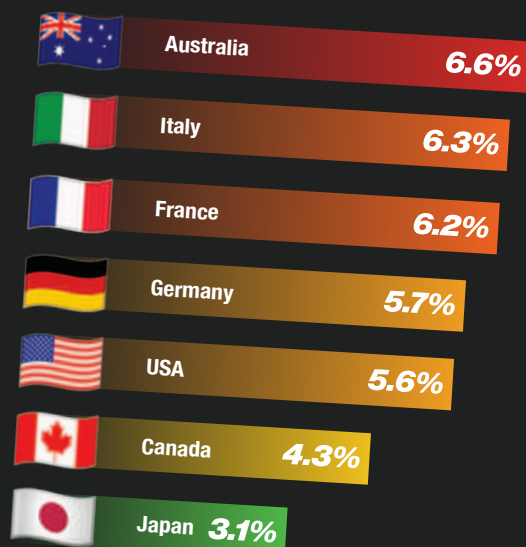
I hosted a Forum with local pharmacists, to better understand their concerns and what implications the changes could have on the Bradfield community. It was a productive meeting and I thank those who attended.

Local pharmacies play an important role in protecting the healthcare of our community and I will continue to monitor this situation closely.



AUSTRALIA'S INFLATION CHALLENGE

Australia's core inflation is higher than comparable countries



(Source: Trading Economics, May 2023)

LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY



A big part of the job of a member of parliament is listening to the community you represent. That is why I recently held fifteen 'listening post' community meetings over three days in April, right across the electorate of Bradfield. At Castle Cove in the south, at Hornsby in the north, and at many points in between, I was able to meet with and hear from some 200 constituents.

I certainly took away quite a number of follow up actions! Thank you to everyone who came along - and to the many others who were prompted to email me their thoughts and ideas.

It has been, yet again, an encouraging reminder of just how engaged, informed and thoughtful the people of Bradfield are.



Meeting local early childhood educators

I convened a meeting of local early childhood educators, so they could speak to me and to my visiting colleague Angie Bell MP, the Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education.

We heard about a range of issues impacting the sector, including workforce issues, a spike in red tape and how the rising cost of living is forcing centres to pass on costs to parents and carers.

It was great to see such passion and commitment from the attendees. They play such a vital role in our community by educating future generations.

Jasmine's inspiring journey

I recently met with Jasmine who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at five years old. She is now our local Ambassador for JDRF - Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the leading global supporter of type 1 diabetes research.

It is inspiring to see Jasmine use her passion, energy, and lived experience to make a difference to our community.



2023 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize

I spoke at the opening event of the 2023 Ravenswood Australian Women's Art Prize.

It was a wonderful occasion enjoyed by more than 300 guests. The Prize is an initiative of Ravenswood School for Girls, aimed at advancing and promoting opportunities for women in the arts.

Congratulations to all artists involved and Ravenswood for organising such an exciting event.



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