



Martin Ferguson AM MP Federal Labor Member for Batman

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FERGUSON REPORT - 2011 BUDGET

The 2011-12 Budget will drive economic growth throughout the community whilst returning the Budget to surplus and protecting the most vulnerable. With low unemployment, businesses crying out for skilled workers, and young Australians wanting more opportunities, there has never been a better time to encourage Australians to participate in our booming economy.

This budget will get more Australians in jobs and spread the opportunities of the mining boom. That's what Labor Government's do: build a strong economy for all Australians.

The Labor Government is delivering:



NEW MEASURES TO GET MORE PEOPLE INTO WORK

Especially the long-term unemployed, young people who aren't working, and parents from jobless families.



MENTAL HEALTH HAS BEEN MADE A PRIORITY

With a \$2.2 billion investment to ensure people get the care they need, when they need it.



130,000 NEW TRAINING PLACES

As part of a \$3 billion package to deliver the skilled workers the economy needs.



FAMILY TAX BENEFIT-A RATES INCREASED

FTP-A rates to be increased to assist families with 16 - 19 year olds in full time secondary study.

If you want more information please visit www.alp.org.au/agenda/budget-2011-12

What Labor is doing to *ease the cost of living pressures* for your family



From 1 January next year, **Family Tax Benefit-A rates will be increased** by up to \$4,200 a year. This helps families meet the increased costs of older children and supports them to stay in school.



Giving 6.5 million taxpayers up to **\$300 more of the Low Income Tax Offset (LITO)** in their pay packets, rather than at the end of the year.



Letting families choose to have **child care rebates paid when it suits them**, such as fortnightly, cutting down on up-front bills.



And we're **extending the Education Tax Refund** to cover school uniforms, from 1 July 2011.



Delivering an **improved pension work bonus** so that age pensioners can keep more of their income from work.



In addition to the measures in this budget, we've delivered **income tax cuts since coming to office** meaning that:

- A person on \$30,000 will have had their annual tax bill cut by \$750, or 23%
- A person on \$50,000 will have had their annual tax bill cut by \$1,750, or 17%
- A person on \$80,000 will have had their annual tax bill cut by \$1,400 or 7%



And we have **increased fortnightly payments** for veterans' income support recipients and people on aged, disability and carer pensions, meaning a \$128 boost for singles and a \$116 boost for couples on the maximum rate since September 2009.

A Strong Economy for *all* Australians



Martin with Lachlan and Bridget.

Making every school a great school

The Budget builds on the Government's strong record of lifting education standards by:

- ▶ Providing **reward payments for our best teachers**. Around 25,000 of the country's best teachers each year will receive a reward payment worth up to 10 per cent of their salary.
- ▶ Investing \$200 million over three years to **support students with disabilities**, with new services, equipment and more in-class support.
- ▶ Supporting up to 3700 schools and their communities to establish or enhance existing **school chaplaincy services**.

Supporting senior Australians who want to work

- ▶ A new **Work Bonus** for pensioners over the pension age so they can now keep more of their pension while working part-time.
- ▶ \$30 million to help mature age workers formalise their trade skills.
- ▶ A further \$10.4 million over four years to continue to support 2,000 **Broadband for Seniors** kiosks established across the country.



Martin with Jimmy and Maria

And we will invest **\$3 billion** in new skills initiatives over 6 years, including:

A Workforce Development Fund that will deliver **130,000 training places** (over four years) directly tailored to industry skill needs – placing industry at the heart of the training effort.

Improvements to the apprenticeship system to **allow apprentices to progress faster** and mentoring support for up to 40,000 apprentices.

A **\$1,700 Trades Apprentice Income bonus** to encourage them to complete their qualifications.

30,000 more places in the **Language, Literacy and Numeracy program** to provide the basic skills essential for a job.

Supporting your community

- ▶ Creating **500,000 jobs in the next two years** – nothing is more important for dealing with bills than job security.
- ▶ Helping families out where we can by **Increasing family payments** for 650,000 teenagers (over 5 years) by up to \$4,200, with over 8,000 local families set to benefit.
- ▶ Giving **small businesses a tax break** so that they will get a \$5,000 instant write-off to cars, trucks and utes.
- ▶ And **cutting unnecessary spending to take pressure off inflation** and make sure the budget doesn't add to price pressures.

How will the Budget benefit the people of Batman?

My policy initiatives are informed and shaped by my experience as the Member for Batman. That is why this Budget will drive opportunities for families and young people in our community by investing in training, healthcare, education and job creation. For example:

- ▶ A \$1700 Trades Apprentice Income Bonus will be provided up to 2305 apprentices in Batman to encourage them to complete their critical trade qualifications;
- ▶ And, \$1.3 million in funding will go to local employment services to provide the region's long term unemployed with job training and work experience.



Martin at the Ntec Regional Trade Training Centre construction launch at Northlands Secondary College

For further information please visit www.alp.org.au/agenda/budget-2011-12/

A Strong Economy for *all* Australians

Renewable Energy Programs

The 2011-12 Budget confirmed the Government's support for renewable energy programs within the Resources and Energy portfolio.

The Government's *Solar Flagships* Program – remains a **\$1.5 billion** program with \$1.15 billion available to be spent up to 30 June 2015 and a further \$370 million is available beyond 30 June 2015. *Connecting Renewables* remains a \$1 billion program with \$100 million available to be spent up to 30 June 2015 and a further \$900 million available beyond 30 June 2015. The Budget provides funding of \$40 million for the

Emerging Renewables program and directs an additional \$60 million in existing funds to bring the total program value to **\$100 million** to 30 June 2015. It also provides **\$100 million** in funding for the *Renewable Energy Venture Capital Fund*, with \$60 million to be spent up to 30 June 2015 and a \$40 million beyond 30 June 2015 to 30 June 2024.

The *Carbon Capture and Storage Flagships* Program remains at over **\$1.8 billion**.

For further information visit www.ret.gov.au

Local Sporting Champions Grants

The Australian Labor Government has allocated **\$3.2 million annually** for the Local Sporting Champions (LSC) program. Grants of \$500 for eligible individuals and \$3000 for eligible teams are available to successful applicants. LSC grants are available to young people participating in state and national sporting championships as an athlete, coach, umpire or referee.

The current Round expires on 30 June 2011.

For further information please contact my office on 9416 8690 or visit www.ausport.gov.au/champions



Martin with LSC grant recipients, from L-R: Walter Chung, Badminton; Julio Melo, Weightlifting; Jaimee Fourlis, Tennis; Vanessa Bof, Cycling; Mitchell Whinnen, Hockey; Grace O'Donoghue-Hayes, Canoeing and Hugh Curnow, Football.

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