



# BRADFIELD BRIEFING

A Community Newsletter from

# PAUL FLETCHER MP

## Federal Member for Bradfield

BUDGET 2017

### Letter from Paul

The Turnbull Government recently handed down the 2017-18 Budget. Built on the principles of fairness, security and opportunity, this Budget puts a focus on boosting the economy and helping households.

Through this budget the Turnbull Government is backing small business and investing in future growth with funding for major infrastructure projects.

We are guaranteeing Medicare, to ensure Australians can access timely and affordable healthcare, by establishing the Medicare Guarantee Fund. We are ensuring the National Disability Insurance Scheme is fully funded, by increasing the Medicare levy by half a percentage point.

And the Turnbull Government is providing an additional \$18.6 billion in funding over a decade for schools.

This budget is designed to increase the economy's performance – while ensuring that we live within our means with a plan to return the Budget to balance in 2020-21.

While the budget is of profound importance nationally, it will also have a very direct and positive impact here in Bradfield – whether it is an extra \$214 million in Commonwealth funding for Bradfield schools over the next ten years, a one-off payment which will help more than 11,600 Bradfield residents pay their energy bills this winter, or the new measure to help aspiring first home buyers save for a deposit through their superannuation fund.

This newsletter gives you more information about the budget and what it will mean for you and your family. You can find more information at [www.budget.liberal.org.au](http://www.budget.liberal.org.au) – or by contacting my office.

As ever, if I can help you in any aspect of your dealings with Government, please do not hesitate to get in touch – all of my contact details are given below.

Best Regards

Paul Fletcher



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## Budget at a glance

The Turnbull Government is working to boost the economy and help households, with the aim of all Australians sharing in the nation's growth story. This Budget is based on the principles of fairness, security and opportunity. It seeks to create more opportunities for Australians and businesses, to guarantee essential services and create more and better paying jobs.

The Government is backing small business and investing in future growth with funding for major infrastructure projects. We are guaranteeing Medicare to ensure Australians can access timely and affordable healthcare, by establishing the Medicare Guarantee Fund.

The Government will ensure the National Disability Insurance Scheme is fully funded by increasing the Medicare levy by half a percentage point.

Building on the \$1.2 billion provided in the 2016-17 Budget, the Government will provide an additional \$18.6 billion in funding over a decade for schools.

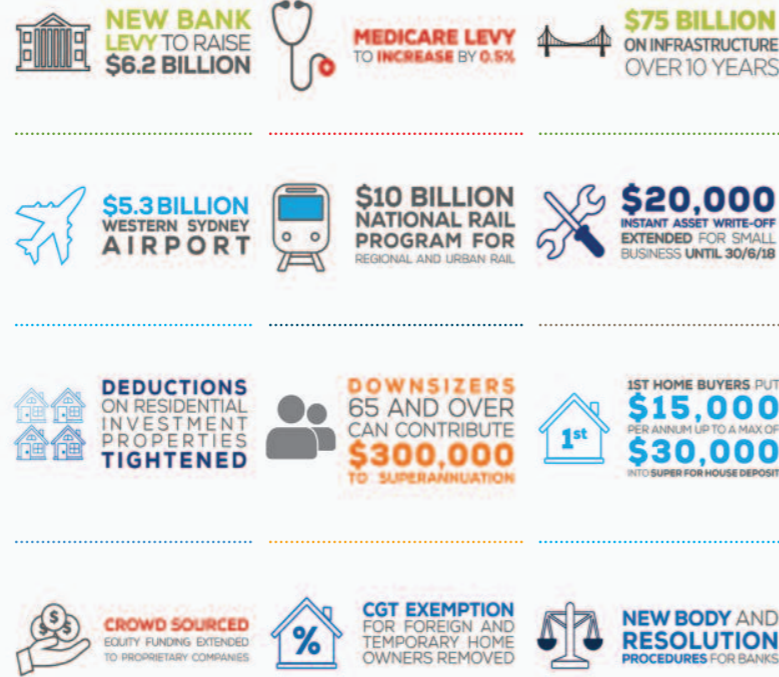
The Government is working to improve Australians' access to secure and affordable housing across the housing spectrum.

Delivery of further investment in infrastructure across our cities and in our regions will help share the benefits of Australia's economic growth broadly across the country.

Australian jobs are at the centre of the Government's decision to abolish the subclass 457 visa. This visa will be replaced by a new temporary skilled visa restricted to critical skill shortages.

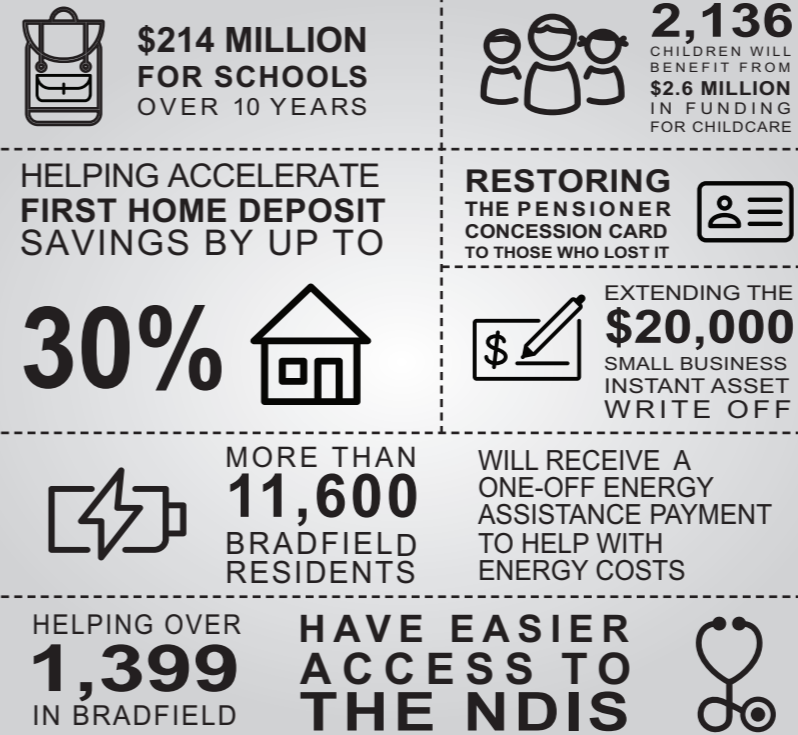
Together these measures will increase our economy's performance – which is vital to ensuring that we live within our means and are able to return the Budget to balance in 2020-21.

## The Budget for Australia



Courtesy of Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand

## The Budget for Bradfield



## Infrastructure in the Budget



This Budget delivers on a number of key infrastructure projects needed to improve congestion and increase access around Sydney.

The Turnbull Government is making a \$5.3 billion commitment to Western Sydney Airport, which will be operational by 2026. This will offer more air travel options for the people of Sydney; provide vitally needed additional aviation capacity (with a recent study finding Kingsford Smith Airport will run out of slots by 2027) and boost the economy of Western Sydney.

We are also delivering on crucial road infrastructure around Sydney. NorthConnex, the 9 kilometre freeway standard tunnel which will connect the M1 at Wahroonga to the M2 at Pennant Hills, is due to be operational by the end of 2019. This will help relieve congestion along Pennant Hills Road and the Pacific Highway, two vital roads in Bradfield.

WestConnex, the transformational \$16.8 billion motorway project, is due to be complete by 2023, with components coming progressively on line including the widened M4 between Parramatta and Homebush later this year.

There is funding for both of these projects in the Budget, and when delivered they will help relieve congestion and make it easier to move around Sydney, while taking traffic off of local and surface roads and restoring community amenity.

The Turnbull Government has made a major commitment to new and upgraded rail infrastructure in this Budget. We are committing to a \$10 billion investment over ten years in the National Rail Program, which will fund new and upgraded rail projects in our major cities and their surrounding regional areas. As our cities grow, rail has an unmatched capacity to carry large numbers of people quickly and efficiently, and new rail lines have a major city shaping impact.

The National Rail Program will build on existing state and Commonwealth investment in new rail lines. Sydney Metro Northwest, due to commence operations in 2019, will extend the existing Chatswood to Epping line to the north west and the Hills district, with eight stations, finishing at Rouse Hill and Cudgegong Road. It will operate as a 'metro' style service, offering services every five minutes. After it opens, work will continue on the Sydney Metro City and Southwest, which has been funded with \$1.7 billion from the Commonwealth along with state government funding. This will extend the line from Chatswood to North Sydney, under the harbour, to Barrangaroo, Martin Place, and then continuing on to Bankstown with the existing line to be extensively upgraded.

## Planning for our schools



As a result of our new, needs based funding model, primary and secondary schools in Bradfield will receive a significant increase in funding. There are 57 primary and secondary schools in Bradfield that educate more than 35,983 students. Total Commonwealth funding to schools in Bradfield will increase by \$214 million over ten years.

## Better Access to Childcare

- The Budget will deliver better access to childcare services, which is very important for the 9,260 families in Bradfield that use Government supported child care
- The Turnbull Government's childcare reforms will enable 2,136 children across Bradfield to access 15 hours of preschool a week

## Boosting Small Business

- Extending the \$20,000 Instant Asset Write Off for small businesses
- Small and Medium Business Tax Cuts for incorporated businesses with a turnover up to \$50 million, and unincorporated businesses with turnover up to \$5 million
- \$1.5 billion Skilling Australian Fund – to help young people find jobs or more work



## Guaranteeing Healthcare for Australians

We are guaranteeing and strengthening Medicare so that all Australians can continue to access timely and affordable healthcare. Our investments increase Medicare rebates, reduce the cost of medicines, and reverse increases to medicine co-payments and safety net thresholds.

To guarantee healthcare for the future, we are creating a new Medicare Guarantee Fund that by law can only be used to pay for Medicare and medicines.

- The Medicare Levy, minus the rate set aside for the NDIS, will be fully paid into the Medicare Guarantee Fund
- An additional proportion of income tax revenue will also be paid into the Medicare Guarantee Fund to cover total Medicare costs and cheaper medicines
- We will incentivise GPs to bulk bill children and concession card holders

We are ensuring through the 0.5% increase to the Medicare Levy, to be introduced in 2019, that the National Disability Insurance Scheme is fully funded for all, including the 1,400 Bradfield residents who will depend on it.

## Securing affordable housing

The Coalition Government is working to keep the great Australian dream alive. There are no silver bullet solutions to making housing more affordable but we are working to help first homebuyers, downsizers and those in need of social housing, by:

- **Allowing first homebuyers to save for a deposit in their superannuation, and attract generous tax concessions**
- **Providing superannuation incentives for older Australians downsizing to a smaller home**
- **Funding for homelessness and social housing, especially for domestic violence victims and youth**
- **Launching tougher real estate rules for foreign investors designed to make sure they pay their fair share of tax and don't leave properties empty**
- **Increasing the CGT discount to 60% for affordable and social housing investment**
- **Securing new state agreements to require planning reform and deliver affordable housing supply**
- **Establishing a National Housing Infrastructure Fund and Commonwealth Land Bank to unlock land and infrastructure barriers**
- **Allowing negative gearing to continue for mum and dad investors securing their future and increasing rental housing stock**

## Keep in touch with Paul online

Want to find out what Paul is doing to represent you? Or let him know your views? There are lots of options:

- **Receive Paul's Electronic Newsletter** – just email [paul.fletcher.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:paul.fletcher.mp@aph.gov.au) with the word "Newsletter" in the subject line.
- **Visit Paul's website** – [www.paulfletcher.com.au](http://www.paulfletcher.com.au)
- **Keep up with Paul on Facebook** – send him a friend request or like his page
- **Follow Paul on Twitter** – @PaulFletcherMP
- **Visit Paul's YouTube channel** – [www.youtube.com/user/PaulFletcherMP](http://www.youtube.com/user/PaulFletcherMP)



*Paul with a new citizen at the Australia Day Hornsby Citizenship Ceremony*