



POSTAGE  
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AUSTRALIA

# Rebekha Sharkie MP

Your active, local voice in Canberra



## Making Mayo Matter!

Welcome to the summer edition of our Mayo newsletter.

Since the election I and my Centre Alliance colleagues Senators Stirling Griff and Rex Patrick have hit the ground running in the Parliament and in our advocacy for South Australia and the electorate of Mayo.

In the first few sitting weeks of the 46th Parliament I introduced 10 Private Member's Bills covering rural finance reform, payday lending reform, real-time reporting of political donations, National Heritage Listing for the Bight, aged care staffing ratio reporting, a national database for aged care workers, phasing out of long-haul sheep exports and constitutional amendments for press freedom and the management of national water resources.

In our negotiations with the Government, Centre Alliance has secured **\$80 million** to establish a world-leading genomic cancer profiling and treatment institute in Adelaide's medical precinct.

Locally, we have negotiated **\$7.3 million** for our growers in Mayo so they can access a dollar-for-dollar netting scheme to build environmental covers for their orchards.

We have also advocated for a **\$200,000** solution to a local telecommunications black spot in Cherry Gardens and secured **\$2.77 million** in much-needed funding for sporting infrastructure in Mayo including:



*Rebekha is pictured in a netted Ceravolo Orchard at Nairne with local apple growers Susie Green, left, Matthew Flavell and Jody Schultz. Centre Alliance has secured a \$7.3 million netting scheme.*

- **\$2 million** to finish Stage 1 of the Mount Barker Regional Sports Hub;
- **\$550,000** to upgrade facilities at the Encounter Bay Sports Complex;
- **\$105,000** to build new clubrooms at the Birdwood Netball Club;
- **\$130,000** for an amenities block at the Summertown Community Centre;
- **\$60,000** for the Mount Compass Community Sports & Social Club to address new fire safety standards; and
- **\$30,000** for the Clarendon Netball Club for a secure storage shelter.

These funding commitments by the Federal Government through Centre Alliance's advocacy are wonderful news.

We want an active and connected community and sport plays an important role in building healthy and happy communities.

Rest assured, sport is not the only sector in our community that Centre Alliance is advocating for. We are lobbying for better health services; upgraded road and transport infrastructure, (including an upgraded freeway interchange at Verdun and more overtaking lanes on the Victor Harbor Road); and support for our local environment and community organisations.

**Rebekha Sharkie MP**  
**Federal Member for Mayo**



# Giving Mayo facilities a sporting chance



*Rebekha Sharkie with Birdwood Netball Club officials Amanda Schapel, Ben Walsh and Shane Mudge.*

**Birdwood Netball Club** will receive \$105,000 in Federal funding to help build new clubrooms thanks to Rebekha's advocacy.

The Federal grant will augment the club's own fund-raising and in-kind community support to replace the old clubroom and build a new storage shed.

Club President Ben Walsh said the funding would make a "world of difference" to the standard of club facilities, making it safer for young families and more comfortable for members.



*Rebekha was recently shown the facilities at Clarendon Netball Club's base by members Brianna Dowding, left, Mackenzie Steer, Natalie Perkins, Kyiesha Gee, Chris Rose, and Kaitlyn Millhouse.*

**Clarendon Netball Club** can now lock up their equipment in a secure shelter thanks to a \$30,000 grant secured by Rebekha.

The Federal funding will allow the club to build a purpose-built shed and permanent barbecue shelter to cater for the needs of the 150-member club.

"Members have worked hard to maintain their presence in Clarendon so I am pleased that this grant will allow them to upgrade their shedding and provide cover for the barbecue and canteen," Rebekha said.

Clarendon Netball Club President Chris Rose welcomed the announcement.

"Having shedding and shelter that is permanent, lockable and waterproof, will be an amazing and much-needed addition to our facilities and it will also benefit the tennis club and any other sporting codes looking at joining the recreation grounds," Ms Rose said.

## The Summertown Community Centre

has been granted \$130,000 to build a much-needed toilet block on Tregarthen Reserve. The funding, secured through Rebekha's advocacy, will enable the Summertown Community Centre to replace the circa 1970s public facilities with toilets that meet modern standards.



*Summertown Netball Club President Hanna Heptinstall and Rebekha.*

"Right across our community we are struggling to upgrade our facilities so they meet modern standards for health and safety, disability access and gender inclusiveness," Rebekha said. "Toilets are sometimes overlooked facilities but they are essential."

Summertown Netball Club President Hanna Heptinstall said the funding was exciting news.

"Now we'll be able to meet the needs of the various clubs, community groups and visitors that pass through Tregarthen Reserve and we're excited to get started on the next stage of this project," Mrs Heptinstall said.



*Mount Compass Community Sports & Social Club Secretary Hannah Stone, left, Club President Perrin Hicks and committee member Tom Edwards show the straw ceiling to Rebekha.*

**Mount Compass Community Sports & Social Club** can finally address an urgent council directive to meet new fire safety standards thanks to a \$60,000 grant secured through the advocacy of Rebekha.

The grant means the club can now replace the old straw thatched ceiling inside their main building and install water tanks and equipment for CFS use.

Club President Perrin Hicks said the Federal funding and the advocacy were greatly appreciated.

"We are a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers who all know that any financial assistance is greatly appreciated as every dollar earned comes directly from our members," Mr Hicks said.

# Giving Mayo facilities a sporting chance

## First Stronger Communities funds released

The first nine of 20 grant applications selected for Mayo under the Stronger Communities Program have been announced by the Government.

Every electorate in Australia receives an allocation of \$150,000 to share among eligible groups for small capital projects.

The grants are selected in Mayo by an independent committee set up by Rebekha.

The successful applicants to date include;

- **Aldinga Bay Bowling Club** - \$8,380 for mowing equipment.

- **Mylor Citizens Friendship Club** - \$8,500 to install airconditioning.

- **Callington Recreation Park** - \$6,685 for an electronic scoreboard.

- **Willunga Bowling Club** - \$5,696 for shade structures.

- **Mount Barker Tennis Club** - \$5,000 to build an undercover area.

- **Aldinga Bay Surf Life Saving Club** - \$5542 for a pop-up kitchen.

- **Yankalilla Hockey Club** - \$4,000 for solar panels.

- **Parawa Progress Association** - \$2,637 to install airconditioning.

- **Houghton Districts Football Club** - \$2,500 to upgrade canteen facilities.

## \$2M for Mount Barker Regional Sports Hub

Rebekha has welcomed the announcement of \$2 million to finish off the Stage 1 of the Mount Barker Regional Sports Hub project costing at just over \$23 million.

The extra funds, negotiated by Centre Alliance in recent months, will add to the \$8 million pledged by the Federal Government in 2018; the \$8.15 million contribution from the Mount Barker District Council; \$3.775 million from the State Government and \$300,000 from peak sporting bodies.

It means the Council now has the full amount to build an oval for AFL football and cricket with changerooms and lighting, two synthetic soccer pitches with change rooms and lighting, storage sheds and other infrastructure such as parking, fencing, stormwater and landscaping.

"With the population of the Mount Barker district expected to grow from around 34,000 to 55,500 by 2036, we need to meet the demand for recreational facilities as well as upgrading our road networks and waste water facilities," Rebekha said.



*Rebekha and Mount Barker Mayor Ann Ferguson at the site of the Mount Barker Sports Hub.*

"We want an active and connected community and sport plays an important role in building healthy communities."

Mount Barker Mayor Ann Ferguson said securing the funds for Stage 1 was a vision initiated by the Mount Barker Football Club in collaboration with the Council.

## \$550,000 to upgrade Encounter Bay Football Club

The Encounter Bay Football Club can upgrade its clubrooms and change rooms thanks to a \$550,000 grant secured through Rebekha's advocacy.

The funds will help the club upgrade the existing change rooms and build SANFL compliant amenities for female players and umpires.

The grant will also enable the club to extend its clubrooms, kitchen and canteen facilities and make them compliant to disability access requirements as well as upgrading the fire water supply and fire equipment to new national standards.

"Encounter Bay Football Club has risen to the challenge and has done a huge amount of planning and engagement with their members on this project," Rebekha said.

"I was happy to advocate on their behalf with the Morrison Government and I am extremely pleased that the club now has a contribution towards their masterplan."

Former Club President Cameron Hallett



*Rebekha discusses the planned extension of the facilities for the Encounter Bay Football Club and affiliated netball and cricket clubs with Steering Committee members Ray Clarke and Don Rumbelow and Former President Cameron Hallett.*

said the funding announcement was great news for members.

"The Encounter Bay Football Club is excited to receive this generous contribution from the Federal Government with the help and support of Rebekha Sharkie," Mr Hallett said.

"This is our first big step in the funding process of our important project."





# YOUR VOICE IN PARLIAMENT

As a part of Centre Alliance, Rebekha Sharkie is responsible for the following portfolios: Family and Community Services, Disability Services, Housing, Ageing, Education, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Indigenous Affairs, Arts, Sport and Youth.

## Friends of Climate Action



Parliamentary Friends of Climate Action convenors Rebekha, Helen Haines and Zali Steggall, recently met with UNICEF Australia Young Ambassadors Lachlan Arthur and Steve Muan who presented the UNICEF Australia Young Ambassadors 2019 report 'A Climate for Change'.

Rebekha and some of her Crossbench colleagues have re-established the Parliamentary Friends of Climate Action in the 46th Parliament.

The group is Co-chaired by Rebekha and Helen Haines, the Member for Indi, with Zali Steggall, the Member for Warringah, as Deputy Chair, with the aim of providing a non-partisan forum for Parliamentarians to hear from experts on climate change science and policy.

## News from the House

**Child care change:** After taking a petition from Woodside parents all the way to the Education Minister, Rebekha has welcomed Government moves to tweak its year-old child care reform package. One of the changes involves extending the timeframe for cancelling an enrolment from eight weeks to 14 weeks so parents who only use holiday care no longer have to re-enrol every school term.

**Men's Shed:** On behalf of the Yankalilla Men's Shed, Rebekha used Question Time to ask when promised portable defibrillators would be delivered to Men's Sheds around the country. The answer from Health Minister Greg Hunt was "early in the New Year".



Rebekha speaks at a press conference hosted by the Australia Institute and Crossbench members.

**Federal ICAC:** In the first sitting weeks of the 46th Parliament Rebekha and her colleagues Senators Stirling Griff and Rex Patrick stood with Crossbench members and retired Judge David Harper from the Australia Institute's National Integrity Committee to call for a National Integrity Commission with "real teeth".

The Committee has put forward an implementation plan for a more robust National Integrity Commission than the one proposed by the Government, which can be accessed on the Australia Institute website [www.tai.org.au](http://www.tai.org.au).

"This is a once in a generation opportunity so let's do it once and let's do it right," Rebekha said.

Since being elected in 2016 Rebekha has:

given  
**275**  
speeches

asked  
**37**  
questions in  
Question Time

introduced  
**16**  
pieces of  
legislation

submitted  
**231**  
questions in  
writing

## Private Members' Bills

Rebekha has introduced 10 Private Member's Bills in the 46th Parliament relating to:

**National water resources:** Proposing a Constitutional amendment so the Commonwealth manages resources such as the Murray River;

**Press freedom protections:** Proposing a Constitutional amendment to enshrine freedom of expression;

**Heritage listing for the Bight:** To ensure stringent environmental protections when assessing drilling applications;

**Aged care staffing ratios:** Requiring public reporting of staffing levels at each facility;

**Aged care worker database:** To provide checks and safeguards for providers hiring aged care workers;

**Rural finance reforms:** To provide financial protections for mum and dad farmers;

**Live sheep export ban:** To phase out long-haul sheep exports over five years;

**Political donation reforms:** To impose 'real-time' reporting of political donations;

**Payday lending reforms:** To provide protections for vulnerable Australians accessing short-term finance.

**Raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years.**

For more details please visit [www.rebekhasharkie.com.au](http://www.rebekhasharkie.com.au)

# SCHOOLS OUT & ABOUT IN MAYO



At Parliament House Rebekha met Samantha Moyle from Kangarilla, who teaches at Brighton Secondary School and received the Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Secondary Schools, and Sarah Finney of Bridgewater, who teaches at Stirling East Primary School and was presented with the Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Primary Schools.



Rebekha is pictured with members of CREST Earth, a group of Encounter Lutheran College students at Victor Harbor who give up their lunch hours to do initiatives to make their school, their community and the world a better place. The Group's next project will be a beach clean-up at Granite Island early in the 2020 school year.



Rebekha presents the Torres Strait Island and Aboriginal flags to Victor Harbor Investigator College students Sophie Hollingworth, left, Jackson Robertshaw and Shannen Becket.

PICTURED RIGHT: This painting by Port Elliot Primary School Year 4 student Jack Mitchell is now hanging in Rebekha's office in Canberra after the local MP spotted the artwork at the 2019 SALA School Art Show for South Coast schools.



## CONNECTING CHERRY GARDENS

Cherry Gardens will soon have better mobile and data services thanks to a \$200,000 grant secured by Rebekha.

The grant will go towards a \$350,000 Regional Digital Connectivity Infrastructure project to set up 4G equipment on the existing NBN tower on a site near the Blackwood Golf Course.

The State Government has been asked to contribute \$50,000 to the project and the remaining funds will be raised via a competitive tender process with telecommunication companies.

"The Cherry Gardens community has worked together to find a solution to their telecommunication issues. There are many black spots in Mayo and I will continue my advocacy to address them," Rebekha said.

Mobile black spots and digital connectivity issues are important public safety issues for all regional electorates and require appropriate collaboration from industry and government."

## \$7.3M netting scheme to future-proof fruit industry

Rebekha has negotiated a \$7.3 million scheme to help apple, pear and cherry growers in Mayo future-proof their orchards with environmental covers.

The dollar-for-dollar scheme will allow orchardists to apply for up to \$300,000 in funding to offset the cost of netting.

"This scheme will provide long-term certainty and sustainability for our

grower community which has been doing it tough in the last couple of seasons with severe hailstorms causing immense destruction," Rebekha said.

"Following consultation with industry, I went to the Government with this scheme and I am pleased that they have considered the evidence for our case and agreed to fund the program."

# GRANT WRITING WORKSHOPS

FREE for all community groups needing advice on grant applications

Hosted by **Rebekha Sharkie MP** and with specialist speakers

**PORT ELLIOT** Tuesday 28 January 2020 1pm to 3pm

**STIRLING** Wednesday 29 January 2020 1pm to 3pm

**McLAREN VALE** Thursday 30 January 2020 1pm to 3pm

Secure your place now:

[rebekhasharkie.com.au/grantworkshop](http://rebekhasharkie.com.au/grantworkshop)





# OUT AND ABOUT IN MAYO



Members of the Yankalilla Men's Shed serve up some morning tea during a visit by Rebekha to view their new kitchen area.



Rebekha with members of the Strathalbyn branch of the Pink Plus Support Group for women touched by cancer.



Rebekha caught up with members of the Aldinga Surf Life Saving Club to talk about the rebuilding and re-equipping of their clubrooms.



Rebekha and Madhawa Rupasinghe congratulate Suba Senewirathna on obtaining her Australian citizenship.



Penneshaw Progress Association members Jayne Bates and Betty McAdam show Rebekha the new suspension bridge along the Kangaroo Island Sculpture Trail.



Rebekha with two of the "Gumeracha Garden Fairies" Julie Olsen and Libby Barber.



Rebekha presents a new flag to Wistow Community Association President Sam Haines and Vice President Brian Stewart.



Siblings Gordon and Sam Rich from Wombaroo in Mount Barker. This local family business produces scientifically-formulated nutrition for animals & birds.



Pictured left: Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in SA at the WAB State Conference held in Hahndorf.

## Making Mayo Matter!

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Authorised by R. Sharkie, 1/72 Gawler St, Mount Barker SA 5251. Printed by Reid Print, 1/24 Light Cres, Mount Barker SA 5251.