



Rebekha Sharkie MP

Memo from Mayo

June 2023 - Budget Edition

Your independent voice in Canberra



Hello to everyone in Mayo,

As we approach mid-year, I wanted to share with you my work in the Federal Parliament and across Mayo.

The first half of 2023 has been a busy time in the Parliament, and I also travelled to Timor Leste for a brief but important visit representing Australia as an observer of their national election. It is an honour and a privilege to play a small part in ensuring democracy and security in our neighbouring regions.

Locally, much has been achieved in our Mayo community. My team and I have fought hard for better health services in the regions and after seven years, we have a new emergency department for the Adelaide Hills.

I can also confirm \$13.5 million is secured for the South Coast District Hospital in Victor Harbor. This is an increase of \$5 million in funding on the original Federal funds committed, but with inflation increases, my advocacy to the new Federal Health Minister continues.

With respect to road infrastructure, the Federally funded duplication upgrades to Victor Harbor Road at Seaford Meadows/McLaren Vale are underway, overtaking lanes at Strathalbyn are complete and further funding I secured under the previous Federal Government will ensure South Road is upgraded through to Aldinga and Sellicks Beach.

Site works have commenced for the Mount Barker Regional Aquatic Centre. I was pleased to secure \$15 million towards this project and grateful that the current Federal Government honoured this commitment. Telecommunications in our community are also continuing to improve with mobile phone tower construction projects at Rapid Bay and Cudlee Creek underway.

Thank you for your ongoing support. It is such a privilege to do this work for our community and for as long as I am your Federal MP, I will continue to do all I can to not only make Mayo Matter, but make Mayo better!

Rebekha

Grants Guide

My office is always here to assist with your organisation's grants pursuits. Please do not hesitate to contact my team to request a letter of support to submit as part of a grant application. We kindly ask that these requests are provided to us with a minimum of one week's lead time to ensure we are able to craft a letter which best reflects your project's desired outcome.

If you are not already registered, please also get in touch with my office to have your email address added to our grants mailing list. This will ensure that you receive all correspondence relating to grants that is sent out by my team. We look forward to working with our local sporting clubs and community groups in the future.

For any queries about grants please contact Rose Beltchev via email at Rose.Beltchev@aph.gov.au or by phone on 8398 5566.

IN THE BUDGET

The 2023 budget delivers a modest surplus of \$4.2 billion, assisted by a strong labour market and high commodity prices, but will disappoint working households and middle Australia. The Government has applied considered investment in critical areas such as cost of living, health and aged care, energy and climate while also securing extra revenue from savings and other measures such as the Petroleum Resources Rent Tax reform.

Lifting welfare payments is welcomed, as is increased investment in climate and the environment but I'm deeply disappointed at the lack of infrastructure investment in the regions which I consider a missed opportunity.



Rebekha at a pre-Budget meeting with Federal Treasurer Dr Jim Chalmers presenting a comprehensive seven page letter about our needs in Mayo.



Energy bill relief, up to \$500 per household and up to \$650 per business from July 2023 is a positive step to ease cost of living pressures within our electorate. I'm also pleased that the Commonwealth Rent Assistance will increase by 15 per cent.

After a terrible year of floods, new investment into flood warning infrastructure and funding will be well received and \$148.6 million for sustainability measures in the Murray Darling Basin will be great for our river. I'm also pleased to see \$2 billion to accelerate the development of Australia's hydrogen industry as a positive step to achieving net zero.

My advocacy in the health sector is paying off with \$3.5 billion to triple bulk billing incentives and new Medicare Urgent Care Clinics proposed, we need one in Mayo.

Our beloved aged care workers will receive a well-deserved 15 per cent pay rise with the Government allocating \$11.3 billion and our students will benefit with \$35 million invested over four years to attract and retain more teachers into the profession.

Overall, a budget we can live with, but much left to do.

IN THE HOUSE

While I can't discuss each one in detail, the first eight sitting weeks of 2023 have seen more than 60 pieces of legislation passed in the House of Representatives (up to 1 June). Debate occurs in addition to myriad meetings, briefings and events each sitting week. By comparison, only 18 Bills have passed in the Senate during the same period, illustrating the pace of business in our Federal Parliament's 'lower house'.

Parliamentary Committees

I am pleased to be participating as a Committee Member in the House Select Committee Inquiry into Workforce Australia Employment Services, as well as the House Standing Committee on Agriculture Inquiry into Food Security in Australia.

I have also had the honour of providing vital support to democratic processes in our neighbouring countries by observing elections on behalf of Australia in Fiji and Timor-Leste this year.

Time to act on gambling!

I introduced my Interactive Gambling Amendment (Credit Card Ban and Acknowledgement of Losses) Bill 2023 on 27 March. The Bill would ban the use of credit cards for interactive gambling including by telephone and online. A month later the Government announced it will ban the use of credit cards for online wagering. I will review the Government's Bill to make sure that it bans the use of credit for telephone betting too, in line with my Bill and the existing bans on credit cards for onsite wagering (through TAB outlets and race-tracks).

I have lodged a Notice of Intention to Introduce my Interactive Gambling Amendment (Ban on Gambling Advertisements) Bill 2023 on 19 June. The Bill would ban advertising of certain interactive wagering services (e.g. online and telephone gambling) on radio, television, online and in print. With most Australians supporting a ban on gambling advertising, and 7.2 per cent already at risk of or experiencing gambling harm, it is my hope that this pressure will further prompt the Government to take effective action against this predatory advertising.



Continuing the call for greater political integrity

While this Parliament has seen the National Anti-Corruption Commission established, there remains more to do so that people know who is donating to their would-be political representatives before casting their vote, not many months after an election is held.

That is why I have updated and re-introduced my earlier Private Members Bills to lower the political donation threshold to a total of \$1,000 during any financial year, and require real time reporting of political donations above that threshold within five business days of receipt.

Retirement Villages

I have heard from people all over Australia as well as organisations like the South Australian Retirement Villages Residents Association, concerned at fees charged on departure from retirement villages, and how this and other issues are affecting them and their families. While the South Australian Government is consulting on State Retirement Village reforms, I have also called on the Federal Government to recognise that there is a need for greater Federal oversight and regulation of the inadequate patchwork of state and territory retirement village regulation.

If you or a family member would like to share your experience of a retirement village please contact my team here in Mayo, as well as your local South Australian Member of Parliament, given they are presently governed by State legislation.



IN THE ELECTORATE

A new ED for the Adelaide Hills

Back in 2015 as a newly minted candidate I was told it was 'impossible' to get an ED up and running at Mount Barker Hospital and it has taken many hours of lobbying various Ministers to get here. First, we had contract doctors on site, then a small but busy ED, and now with over \$11 million of Federal funding a brand-new emergency department. The new ED will increase the number of treatment bays from five to 17. The twelve additional bays will provide the growing population with increased emergency treatment care and accommodate the immediate needs of the Hills community. Importantly, two bays are dedicated for paediatric treatment and two bays for resuscitation.



Hon Chris Picton MP and Rebekha Sharkie MP at the new emergency department for the Adelaide Hills



Cedric Varcoe with Rebekha Sharkie MP at Sugars Beach Hindmarsh Landcare Group Queens Jubilee Tree Planting



Circle of Friends celebrity quiz night with Catherine Hutchesson MP, Rebekha Sharkie MP and Jenny Lewis



Mayor David Leach, Hon Clare Scriven MLC, Rebekha Sharkie MP and Hon Dan Cregan MP turning the first sod for the Mt Barker Regional Aquatic Centre



Rebekha Sharkie MP, Hon Katrine Hillyard MP and Lulu participating in Judith's Walk at Willunga



Rebekha Sharkie MP and Adam Weinert, President of Lobethal RSL



Rebekha Sharkie MP with Upper Sturt Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee members at the dedication of a new stained glass window of remembrance

How to contact my office

Phone - 8398 5566

Email - rebekha.sharkie.mp@aph.gov.au

Adelaide Hills
Unit 3, 22-28 Hutchinson St
Mount Barker
Open 9am-5pm
Monday to Friday

South Coast
26 Hindmarsh Rd
McCracken
Open 9.30am - 4.30pm
Tuesday & Thursday