

Hills Baseball - Takes On The World

During a recent trip to Lismore, I had the opportunity to attend The Australian Senior League Championship, and met the Hills Senior League U17 baseball team who came second in this national event!

A few weeks later, the Hills Under 15 team won the 2017 Australian Junior League Championship, officially booking their place at the **2017 Junior League World Series in Taylor, Michigan USA**. Not long after, and for the second year in a row, the Hills Under 13 team won the 2017 Australian Little League Championship, officially booking their place at the **2017 Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania USA**. They will compete against teams from across the United States, as well as teams from the Asia Pacific, Canada, Europe, Africa, Japan, Latin America, Mexico and the Caribbean.

Their reputation is not only being 'the team to beat', but also being a team of depth, character, professionalism and complete sportsmanship.

I want to congratulate the Hills Junior Baseball Association on their achievements locally, nationally and internationally; and wish both the Little League and Junior League teams the best of luck in the World Series!



The Hills Senior League U17 team

Active Kids Rebate



Premier of NSW Gladys Berejiklian visited the Baulkham Hills Netball Association to spread the word to Parents, Players and Coaches about the fantastic Active Kids Rebate.

Thousands of school children across New South Wales are set to benefit from a new \$100 rebate per child for sporting and fitness related costs.

From **1 January 2018**, the **Active Kids Rebate** will be available for every family with children in school. Tearing around the sports ground is the best thing about being a kid, but sports registration and lesson fees can really add up for families. The health of our children is a priority for every parent and we hope this rebate enables parents to enrol their child in the sport of their choice. Families will be able to claim the rebate on items such as sports registration and membership costs, and lesson fees.

Parents will be able to register online and can take a sports voucher to a registered sports club or provider to receive their rebate.

Local Sports Club Defibrillator Grants Program

\$4 million will be provided over four years to assist sporting clubs across NSW purchase and maintain Automatic External Defibrillators (AED). The first eight minutes after a person has a cardiac arrest are the most critical and early access to CPR and defibrillation can increase the likelihood of survival by up to 75 percent. We will be rolling out more than 2,500 AED's over the next four years, under the **Local Sports Defibrillation Program**, which will also see community members trained in how to use them. **Applications Open - October 2017.**

For more information visit: sport.nsw.gov.au/clubs/grants/defibrillator



Ray Williams MP

MEMBER FOR CASTLE HILL
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURALISM AND MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES

Community Newsletter



August 2017

Dear Constituents,

It's hard to believe that we are already in the second half of 2017. What a fantastic first half of the year it has been for NSW and the Castle Hill electorate!

I am pleased to report that **NSW is completely debt free and expects to record a surplus of \$4.5 billion** for the 2016-2017 financial year. An excellent result!

This budget surplus was achieved through the Government's strong economic & financial management, and successful reform. What this means for Castle Hill, is that we will benefit from more world-class infrastructure and services!

I am very pleased that the 2017-2018 Budget delivers real change for families, retirees, small business owners and residents living across the electorate.

We are helping young people buy their first home, parents afford their kids sports and fitness costs, and seniors with the everyday cost of living.

I would like to thank our Premier Gladys Berejiklian for working together with me to ensure our constituents are being listened to and that their needs are considered in the Government's decision making process.

If you would like your voice heard on any State issue, please feel contact me through the feedback section of my website; or write to me at: castlehill@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Ray Williams

Ray Williams MP
Member for Castle Hill
Minister for Multiculturalism
Minister for Disability Services

Budget Boost for Education!

The Hills has been a big winner in the recent NSW budget with funding for the new school at North Kellyville and a major upgrade and expansion to Samuel Gilbert Public School. A record \$4.2B has been allocated to new and existing school projects across NSW with additional funding to support the first Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Schools in our area at Hills Adventist College.



Visiting with Olivia Savage, Beks Mahaka, Josie Jakovac, Matthew Jack and Dr Malcolm Coulson (Principal) at the Hills Adventist College, which received Building Grants Assistance to expand facilities.



Oliver, Perla and Ethan of the Year 1 Kellyville Public School Playground Equipment Committee, in deep discussion with Ray about important issues such as the benefits of a new slide.

The Budget has also included an additional \$217M to the Start Strong commitment, which will ease pressure on families and enable them to access affordable quality pre-school programs. Grants of \$30,000 have been opened to support and create more out of school hours (OOSH) care services to provide flexible options for working families. Plus, a \$10M boost to NSW school zone safety, to keep our children safe on the way to and from school.

BIG NEWS

UP TO 25% OFF POWER BILLS FOR NSW SENIORS CARD HOLDERS!

See Page 3 For Details!

Driving Business In NSW



Since 2011 the NSW Government has been working hard to address tax and encourage growth and job creation in business across the state. We have raised the payroll tax threshold from \$689k to \$750k and removed indexation. Resulting in 1,300 businesses not required to pay payroll tax, and those that did saved more than \$3,000. We have also increased the **Jobs Action Rebate** from \$5,000 to \$6,000 for businesses with 50 or fewer employees and more than 373,000 new jobs were created as a result with over \$462 million paid in rebates to businesses. Those businesses not paying payroll tax could also claim the \$2,000 **Small Business Grant** where another 5,000 new jobs were created with a total of 2,286 businesses registering for the grants. In order to encourage young people into jobs, \$100 million is being invested through our **Smart, Skilled and Hired** program where 2,208 apprentices have been employed, with another \$10 million to pre apprenticeship and pre traineeship training.

Infrastructure Grants Open for Community & Not For Profits

Community organisations have more opportunities to apply for funding of local projects as part of changes to the NSW Government's Infrastructure Grants (previously known as Club Grants Category 3).

Key changes to the program include new funding ranges, a streamlined application process, and more opportunities to apply across the year with grant rounds in Aug 17, Nov 17, Feb 18 and May 18.

Instead of one round of funding each year for grants up to \$1 million, there will now be four rounds. New funding ranges are \$50k-\$200k for arts and culture, \$10k-\$200k for emergency preparedness and \$100k-\$300k for sport and recreation.

Government infrastructure grant programs have supported some great projects including local sports facilities, public swimming pools, children's play areas, even accommodation for volunteers and the community.

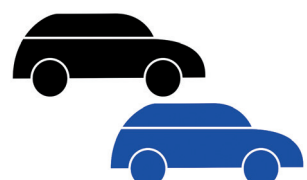


Hills Basketball Stadium tour with Steve Burke – General Manager

If you are interested in applying for an Infrastructure Grant I encourage you to read the Program Information booklet available on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website at: www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au

Helping Young People Get A Home

We know how hard it can be to save for a deposit on a first home and want to ensure the great Australian dream is not out of reach for people in NSW. Therefore first homebuyers will be supported through further stamp duty exemptions, which can save up to **\$34,360** on a new home. This will support around 24,000 people trying to get a foot on the property ladder. Stamp duty will be abolished for first homebuyers on existing and new homes up to \$650,000 and stamp duty discounts on existing homes up to \$800,000. We will also abolish stamp duty charged on lenders' mortgage insurance providing a saving of around \$2,900 on an \$800,000 property. Around half of the homes purchased in NSW in the last year were sold below \$650,000 and almost two-thirds were sold below \$800,000.



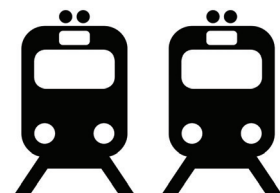
Green Slips CHEAPER
from 1 December 2017



First Home Buyer
Stamp Duty **SAVINGS**



SENIORS SAVE
19%-25% on Power Bill



Sydney Metro
OPENING early 2019

Helping Seniors With The Cost Of Living

The NSW Government has secured a two-year partnership with energy supplier AGL, which will offer **NSW Seniors Card** holders new discounts of up to **25% Off Electricity Usage and 19% Off Gas Usage** charges on a two-year energy plan.

For more information on this offer you can call AGL on 131 245 or visit the NSW Seniors Card website www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au



Further savings for Pensioner Concession Card holders include Public Transport, Vehicle Registration, Water Rebates, Council Concessions, and other Energy Rebate.

\$100 Million For Palliative Care

Families in need of palliative care have now been provided with greater choice, confidence and certainty as part of a record \$100 million palliative care budget package. Frontline nursing and allied health staff will also be eligible for scholarships and training to upskill them with palliative care expertise.

The new funding will support new specialist palliative care nurses and doctors across the state. New initiatives for pharmacists will help improve their skills in managing palliative care medications and providing advice to patients in the community.



Ray had a great visit with a group of seniors from the Chinese Australian Services Society.

Return and Earn

On 1 December this year the NSW Government's landmark **Return and Earn** will start. The scheme will deliver a 10-cent refund to anyone who returns an eligible used drink container to approved collection points.

Drink container litter is a blight on our community parks, streets and waterways. Every year in NSW, around 160 million drink containers are tossed into our environment, making up about 49 per cent of all litter volume.

The scheme, the state's biggest-ever litter reduction initiative; will give everyone an incentive to clean up. Collecting and depositing drink containers will be easy, with a network of approved collection points across the state. Any person or group can also set up an informal collection point.



\$73.2 BILLION
NSW infrastructure



NorthConnex
bypasses **21 LIGHTS**



\$100M BOOST for
Palliative Care Services



675 EXTRA Bus
Services in Castle Hill