



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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A Budget for the Times

The 2010/2011 Federal Budget has been a success in returning our national economy to surplus and reducing debt three years ahead of schedule, said Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP.

"But not only has this budget been a success of responsible economic management, it has also helped secure our future with massive investments into health reform, fairer taxation and superannuation, ongoing boosts to skills and training and help for thousands of households to reduce their energy costs," said Ms Grierson.

"The Rudd Government has already invested almost \$1.5 billion into Newcastle since taking office, so this was not a budget to fulfil our special wish lists.

"While this may come as a disappointment to some, the reality is that leading the international recovery and sustaining our economic prosperity into the future demands some tough decisions.

"Novocastrians will benefit from the Rudd Government's health reforms. The Lambton Family Medical Centre closure has been responded to and e-health records will be introduced so that patients can control their own records.

"In addition, GP practices can now have assistance to employ nurses and apply for infrastructure grants.

"Coupled with diabetes plan funds, small patient-centred practices favoured in Newcastle will be supported."

A 50% discount on the first \$1000 of interest earned on saving accounts, improvements to superannuation savings, tax breaks for small business and pre-filing tax returns (resulting in bigger deductions and refunds for many 'pay as you earn' taxpayers) were more good news stories for the people of Newcastle.

Further investment in the \$1 billion ARTC rail line will also benefit the local region.

"Nationwide, we can see support for 22,500 new apprenticeships and 70,000 new training places; an additional \$5.1 billion to help households and business reduce their energy costs – initiatives like these will be of great assistance to people across our country," said Ms Grierson.

"This is a budget that will protect and maintain the wealth of our nation."

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