



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Release**  
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**NEWCASTLE PAYS TRIBUTE TO JOEY JOHNS – OUR CHAMPION**

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson today paid tribute to Andrew “Joey” Johns, Newcastle’s favourite son and one of the greatest players in the history of rugby league.

After 15 years playing at the elite level and thrilling Novocastrians with his sheer brilliance, Joey Johns has today followed medical advice and announced his retirement.

“He will be sadly missed by the 20,000-plus proud and passionate Knights fans who pack the EnergyAustralia stadium to watch their team in action,” Ms Grierson said.

“Like his fans, I was disappointed he was unable to play his 250<sup>th</sup> game last week, however, I had the pleasure of presenting Andrew with a Centenary Medal for his outstanding contribution to sport in front of a packed stadium at his 200<sup>th</sup> game.”

“That day, with one of his trademark kicks, Joey sealed victory for the Knights in the dying seconds of the game.”

“Memories like this will continue to inspire generations of Novocastrians and Australians for many years to come.”

“The deeds of this champion have lifted the profile of his sport and our City, and I am confident that Joey will continue to take an active part in our region’s community life.”

“Joey will always be a hero in our eyes and I wish him well in his future endeavours.”

**Canberra**  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Ph: 02 6277 4221  
Fax: 02 6277 8461



**Newcastle**  
427 Hunter Street  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300  
Ph: 02 4926 1555  
Fax: 02 4926 1895  
[www.sharongrierson.com](http://www.sharongrierson.com)