



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Alert**

**Disability Employment Strategy consults in Newcastle**

Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children’s Services, will be in Newcastle with Sharon Grierson MP on Monday, 5 May, to steer public consultations for the National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy. They will also visit the House With No Steps.

The strategy is looking at addressing the barriers people with disability and mental illness face in gaining and retaining a job.

Australia has had 17 years of strong economic growth, yet is ranked 13 out of 19 OECD countries in employment rates for all people with a disability.

The Minister for Employment Participation, Brendan O’Conner, and Mr Shorten are jointly overseeing the strategy, which will be developed via public consultations in capital cities and regional centers.

The strategy will provide clear, practical suggestions for future Government action to ensure more people with disability gain and retain work. It will be released by the end of the year.

**What: National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy Consultations and visit to House With No Steps**

**Where: Consultations: Travelodge, Cnr King and Steel Sts**

**House With No Steps: 39/41 Wyong Rd, Lambton**

**When: Monday 5 May 2008, 10.00am-1.30pm**

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