

# Connect with Anoulack

A community newsletter from Anoulack Chanthivong MP, Member for Macquarie Fields – March 2022



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## STUDENTS DESERVE BETTER

Join the campaign for more support class placements in local schools



Debbie Simpson and her partner Warren Powell, pictured with their son Joshua, support my campaign for more support classes in local schools.

I am often contacted by parents desperate for help to get much-needed support for their child at our public schools.

Support classes are designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities or learning support needs such as autism, intellectual disability, behavioural issues and mental health issues.

The stark reality is, there are simply not enough support class placements or funding to meet the growing needs of our community.

Every child should get the right support to help them reach their full potential.

Long waiting lists for support places or extra in-class support are placing additional pressure on teachers and students.

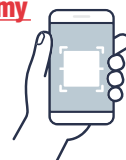
There is a simple solution the Liberal Government chooses to ignore: fund more support classes in our local schools.

Unfortunately, ignoring the needs of south-west Sydney is typical of this Liberal Government.

But I refuse to accept the status-quo. I will continue to fight for additional funding and specialist support class placements in local schools.

If you want better for our kids, sign my petition by scanning the QR code.

Alternatively, please call the office on 9618 2077 or send an email to [macquariefields@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:macquariefields@parliament.nsw.gov.au)



## INSIDE

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# MIND-BOGGLING BUDGET BLOWOUTS

It is appalling the Liberal Government has wasted billions in taxpayers' money in budget blowouts.

From overspending on transport projects to buying faulty or expired COVID-19 personal protection equipment during a pandemic, the Liberal Government has proven it can't be trusted to manage a budget.

When the Government oversees budget blowouts, there is less and less money to fund much-needed services and infrastructure here in south-west Sydney.

## These Liberal budget blowouts:

- ✗ \$4.3 billion on Metro rail projects
- ✗ \$775 million on dodgy PPE in hospitals
- ✗ \$4 billion on WestConnex
- ✗ \$1 billion on intercity train fleet

## Could have easily funded:

- ✔ Lifts at Macquarie Fields Station
- ✔ Toll relief for motorists
- ✔ Upgraded and air-conditioned classrooms
- ✔ New schools in growing suburbs
- ✔ Extra local bus services
- ✔ Playground and recreational space upgrades
- ✔ Sporting facilities and covered seating at all sports grounds
- ✔ Energy rebates for households
- ✔ More nurses and doctors at local hospitals

## WIN FOR PASSFIELD PARK KIDS



Passfield Park School students and staff have welcomed a brand new school in Minto.

The desperately-needed new school is the result of a long fight and ongoing commitment of the Passfield Park Kids Inc. and the broader school community, including the families of current and former students. A huge thanks to everyone in the community who rallied behind this great cause.

I have long supported a new school for Passfield Park School students and, together with Dr Mike Freeland MP, called on the NSW Liberal Government to act urgently to ensure the best possible outcome for the school's students, staff and families. For too long, the NSW Liberal Government neglected and ignored Passfield Park kids' needs.

The new, modern school is a credit to everyone who has fought so hard to achieve this outcome and I wish students, parents and staff a fabulous 2022!

## GRANT FUNDING FOR NEW VEHICLE



Executive Officer of South West Community Transport, Darrin Wilson, with the new vehicle purchased thanks to grant funding.

South West Community Transport (SWCT) in Minto has purchased a new wheelchair-accessible vehicle thanks to \$50,000 in funding from the Community Building Partnership grants program.

The new vehicle enables the SWCT team to continue to provide accessible transport for elderly members of our community or people with disability.

**Contact SWCT on 9426 8999 to book or for more information.**

# TIME TO END THE FUNDING RORTS

Taxpayers' don't expect much – they want their taxes to be spent fairly and responsibly.

Residents are rightly sick and tired of pork-barrelling where the majority of funds are spent in electorates held by the Government.

**A recent report by the Auditor-General found the Liberal Government's approval process for the Stronger Communities Grant "lacked integrity".**

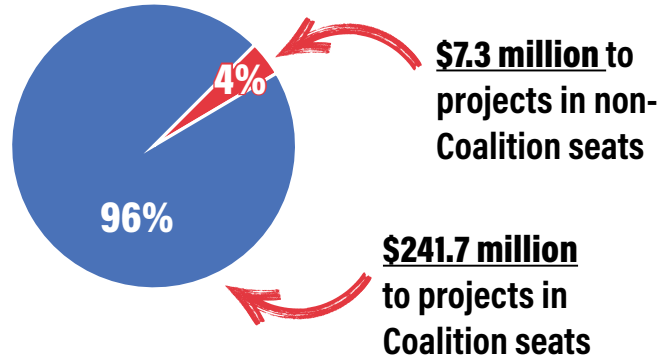
A whopping 96% of funds were allocated to Coalition state seats held by Liberal and Nationals MPs.

NSW Labor introduced legislation to overhaul the grants process in NSW. The Government Grants Administration Bill 2021 has passed the Upper House.

It is likely the Liberal Government will use its numbers in the Lower House to block Labor's bill.

That's why I have a clear message for the Liberal Government: it's time to end the rorts.

## Distribution of Stronger Communities Fund grants by Liberal-National Government



# ATTACK ON HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS

**Are you sick of petrol hikes, ballooning house prices, higher tolls, more fines, tax increases and rising grocery bills?**

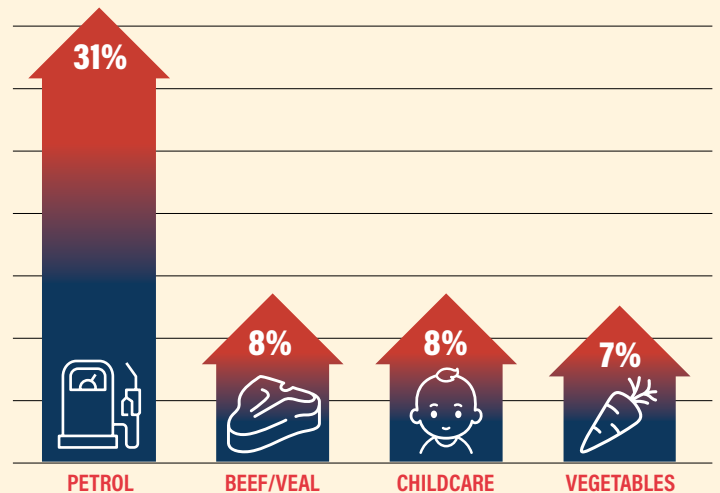
Then it's time to sign my petition calling on the Liberal Government to stop the rising cost of living.

Feedback from residents makes it clear that Liberal Government policies have a significant impact on households and families who are already struggling financially.

I wrote to the Premier urging him to stop the Liberal Government's attack on household budgets. The Premier couldn't be bothered to respond to the concerns of local residents. He flick-passed the issue to other Ministers to dodge taking responsibility.

Here are some of my suggestions for the Liberal Government to ease rising cost of living pressures on my community:

- Scrap the unfair M5 East toll;
- Abandon plans for a never-ending tax on the family home;
- Reverse support for an increase in the GST.



**Sign my petition today!**  
Scan the QR code or call 9618 2077 to add your name.



## COST OF LIVING ASSISTANCE

Sydney Water may be able to provide pensioner discounts, bill support and emergency assistance. Call 13 20 92 for more details.

<b>BillAssist Program</b>	Customers with longer-term financial hardship may be eligible for Sydney Water's BillAssist program. Payment plans are also available for customers.
<b>PlumbAssist Program</b>	PlumbAssist helps customers needing emergency and essential plumbing work but are experiencing financial difficulty.
<b>Emergency Relief credits</b>	The Payment Assistance Scheme provides emergency relief to customers struggling to pay their bills.
<b>Pension rebates</b>	If you receive an aged, disability or service pension or a government allowance, you might qualify for a pension rebate on your quarterly water bill.

# Chat with Anoulack...

## With ... Darcy Lound

Darcy Lound, aka Mr Minto, ranks soccer and Minto as his two favourite things (although not necessarily in that order). The self-professed soccer tragic has lived in Minto his whole life. Darcy is passionate about the area and has served on the local Council since 2012. He is Chairman of the Macarthur Football Association, which has 11,000 registered members. The local community champion lives in Minto with his wife Rebecca and their three children.



### SOCCER HAS ALWAYS PLAYED A BIG PART IN YOUR LIFE.

**Darcy:** I started playing in the Under 6s for Ingleburn Eagles before joining Minto Stingers as a junior player, then playing representative soccer for Macarthur Rams between the ages of 15 and 19. Later, I was Treasurer of Minto Stingers before becoming President in 2007. I held various roles in the local area before becoming Chairman of the Macarthur Football Association in 2017 and I still hold that position today. We're one of the fastest growing associations in Sydney and we're always looking for opportunities to expand, particularly in the new growth areas. It's an exciting time for soccer in South West Sydney!

### YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY EXTENDS BEYOND SOCCER.

**Darcy:** I'm currently on the Board of the Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation – Macarthur's premier children's charity. The Foundation aims to purchase the best technological paediatric medical equipment available to enhance the level of health care offered locally. I'm also a long-serving member of the Minto On The Go Committee. An initiative of Minto Marketplace Centre Manager, Michael Prestia, the committee aims to promote the area's positive aspects by introducing new initiatives and good news stories. It brings together representatives from various community organisations to develop ideas to help Minto thrive and promote South West Sydney.



### WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?

**Darcy:** I love our local area and I am proud to live in South West Sydney. Minto and the broader Campbelltown area offers a great lifestyle with plenty of open space. During the pandemic, we all came to appreciate open space more than ever. One of the challenges going forward, particularly for our new growth areas, is how we maintain access to vital open space as our community grows. People in our local area are genuinely caring, passionate and community-minded. I would like to see opportunities for new or improved sporting facilities, particularly in our new growth areas.

### WHAT HAS SOCCER GIVEN YOU OTHER THAN FITNESS AND FUN?

**Darcy:** Lifelong friendships and social connections. The soccer community is like family to me and it's been a great anchor to my community all through my life.

### HOW DID THE NICKNAME MR MINTO COME ABOUT?

**Darcy:** I suppose it's my long association with the suburb. I've always lived and breathed Minto. It's my home. I care immensely about the local community and want to see more opportunities for people in Minto and across South West Sydney. Minto has so much to offer and I look forward to seeing our local community grow and continue to thrive. Of course, I also look forward to some great soccer this season too!

## CONTACT ANOULACK

If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss State Government matters, please drop into the office or contact me on **9618 2077**, email [macquariefields@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:macquariefields@parliament.nsw.gov.au) or visit [connectwithanoulack.com](http://connectwithanoulack.com)

