

# Grayndler

## Gazette

FROM ANTHONY ALBANESE MP, YOUR FEDERAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

## Paid Parental Leave

Working parents expecting a baby in the New Year are now able to lodge their claims for Paid Parental Leave.

Parents in the Inner West can lodge their claims up to three months before their baby's due date.

"Looking after a newborn is very tiring and time consuming, so to make things easier the Government is allowing parents to apply for paid parental leave in advance," Anthony Albanese said.

"However, I encourage parents to discuss their leave plans with their employer before lodging a claim."

The Gillard Labor Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme provides

eligible working parents of babies born or adopted from **1 January 2011** with parental leave pay for up to 18 weeks at the minimum wage, currently **\$570 a week before tax**.

"Labor supports working parents in the Inner West and that's why we are delivering Australia's first Paid Parental Leave scheme," Anthony said.

Expectant parents can apply for Paid Parental Leave online at **[www.familyassist.gov.au](http://www.familyassist.gov.au)** or pick up an application form at any Medicare or Centrelink office or by calling **13 6150**.

Anthony and Carmel Tebbutt talking to residents at the Marrickville Festival.



**WHITE RIBBON**


**breakfast**

hosted by  
**Anthony Albanese MP**

7:30am to 9:00am DEC 1

@ Haberfield Post

SUPPORTING  
**WHITE RIBBON**



Anthony, a White Ribbon Ambassador, is holding a breakfast at Haberfield Post Café on the 1st of December to support **White Ribbon Day**.

This is part of an international campaign which aims to raise awareness about violence against women in our community.

"One in three Australian women will be a victim of physical or sexual violence in her lifetime," says Anthony.

"This could be your mother, sister, daughter or friend. As a community we really need to promote prevention and change in this area."

The event will also raise funds for the White Ribbon Organisation.

Phone **9564 3588** to book your seat.



# Childcare quality rating systems being trialled

Anthony and Minister for Child Care, Kate Ellis recently visited a Marrickville child care centre, which will be trialling the new assessment and ratings process of the National Quality Framework.

Sydney Day Nursery (SDN) Marrickville is one of nearly 200 Early Childhood Education and Care services that have volunteered to participate in the development of a quality rating system for child care services.

The new assessment and rating system will, for the first time, give parents the information they need to be able to compare the quality of child care services and make the best decisions for their child.

The National Quality Agenda will improve staff-to-child ratios, to ensure every child gets more individual care and attention and will raise staff qualifications.

"SDN Marrickville is already meeting much of the new quality standards, including the 1:4 ratio of staff to babies and their prices are comparable to other services in the area," Anthony said.

"It is great to see a centre in my electorate demonstrating that it is possible to deliver high quality child care at an affordable price."

For more information about the National Quality Framework visit [www.mychild.gov.au](http://www.mychild.gov.au) or call **1800 181 088**.



## Getting families out of detention

Anthony has welcomed the Australian Government's decision to expand its existing residence determination program which will begin moving significant numbers of children and vulnerable family groups out of immigration detention facilities and into community-based accommodation.

"The Gillard Labor Government is committed to the humane treatment of those fleeing persecution and seeking asylum in our country," said Anthony.

"This is especially important for

children, for whom protracted detention can have negative impacts on their development and mental health."

The Government will partner with community organisations to transfer unaccompanied minors and families, who are awaiting the outcome of their applications for asylum, into community-based accommodation.

To implement this expanded program, the Immigration Minister will use existing powers under the Migration Act to make "residence

determinations" and place unaccompanied minors and vulnerable families in community-based accommodation.

"In the past two years, Labor has also abolished Temporary Protection visas and detention debts as part of its more humane approach to asylum seekers within Australia."

"At a local level, my office helps people in this electorate with immigration problems on a daily basis," said Anthony. **Call 9564 3588 if you need assistance.**



# New COLA for St Peters



Anthony recently opened the new **Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA)** at St Peters Public School, built as part of the Gillard Labor Government's \$42 billion Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan to support jobs, stimulate local economies and invest in important infrastructure for the long-term.

The school received \$925,000 from the **Building the Education Revolution (BER)** to build the covered outdoor learning area, install solar panels and a rainwater tank and refurbish some of the school buildings.

Mr Albanese congratulated St Peters Public School on its new facilities and said the new structure would allow students to learn and play outside come rain, hail or shine.

"I am pleased to see these projects reaching completion after all the great work from local principals, parents and tradespeople," said Anthony.

"Australia stands alone amongst developed economies in staying out of recession and it is because of this project and the 8000 other projects like it in schools across the country."

Further information about this project and all schools funded is available at [www.buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au](http://www.buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au)

# Anti-Poverty Week

Anti-Poverty Week is an opportunity for all Australians to focus on the lives of those less fortunate. Anthony recently visited the **Exodus Foundation** in Ashfield to help hand out meals and discuss the Government's response to poverty.

"Over the past three years the Federal Labor Government has pursued an ambitious agenda to reduce poverty and give disadvantaged Australians opportunities," said Anthony.

"Reducing poverty is about jobs, housing and social security. Since coming to office we have created 600,000 jobs despite the Global Recession, invested \$6 billion in social housing, \$1.1 billion over four years to reduce homelessness, and delivered a record increase in the pension."

The Government has delivered other forms of targeted assistance to help families under pressure, including:

- Providing more support to teenagers aged 16 to 18 who stay at school or are in training through our election commitment to **increase the maximum payment rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A by more than \$150 per fortnight** from 1 January 2012;
- Assisting families caring for children with developmental disabilities with access to **intensive early intervention services** from 1 July 2011;
- Delivering a record **\$5.75 billion** over three years to address chronic under **investment in Indigenous affairs**; and
- Delivering Australia's first **Paid Parental Leave scheme** on 1 January next year, which will provide paid leave for low income families, casual, contract and seasonal workers for the first time.

Anthony said reducing poverty requires all levels of government and non-government agencies such as Exodus to work together to address it.

"The fantastic work they do here at Exodus is an example of real solutions to address poverty, whether it's teaching kids how to read or cooking a Christmas lunch for thousands of people," said Anthony.

"I pay tribute to all the volunteers who give their time and commitment to help those who are less well off."





# Delivering more playgrounds and sporting fields for our children

Did you know that because of the shortage of open space, recreation facilities and sporting fields many local kids and young people miss out on participating in junior sport and active recreation?

To help solve this problem the Gillard Government is investing more than **\$6.9 million** in building and upgrading a range of playgrounds and sporting fields in the seat of Grayndler, including **\$3.5 million** in the Marrickville area.



## Mackey Park

**\$2.2 million** from the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program to Marrickville Council for the renovation of Mackey Park. The project is nearing completion and includes:

- Upgrades of all sporting fields so that local kids can play more soccer and cricket games
- Installation of new playground equipment, shade structures and pedestrian pathways
- Refurbished amenities to make the park more accessible for families

## Arlington Reserve

The **\$264,000** Federal Government funded upgrade of Arlington Reserve, home of the Stanmore Hawks and Dulwich Hill Football Clubs, was completed this year.

## Waterplay Park at Steel Park

The Federal Government contributed **\$130,000** to this environmentally friendly water project, which will be very popular as summer heats up.

## Henson Park

In August, the Gillard Government announced **\$920,000** to upgrade Henson Park, home of the Newtown Jets and community sporting activities.

- Replacing the asbestos roof with metal sheeting and fixing the concrete cancer in the King George V Memorial Grandstand
- Upgrading amenities in the tower and canteen
- Restoring the old clock and scoreboard
- Replacement of the forecourt paving

Anthony attended **Dance Around the World**, the annual multicultural dance and food festival at **Marrickville West Public School**, which included acts such as Gervais Koffi (pictured below). The organisers expressed appreciation to the Federal Government for funding the expansion of the school hall through the Building the Education Revolution program as well as funding TAFE courses through the PLACE Project. Students from these courses did most of the organisation and preparation for the festival.



need help with  
federal\* matters?  
call my office



**9564 3588**

\* Centrelink, Immigration,  
Tax, CSA, Super