

Connect with Anoulack

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



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BUDGET MUST DELIVER OUR FAIR SHARE

The Liberal Government has a bad habit of ignoring the needs of south-west Sydney.

They are so focused on pork-barrelling in their own seats that they are clueless about how to improve the quality of life for local residents.

So I've spelled it out for them.

I've written to several Liberal Ministers advocating for local projects and initiatives to be funded in the 2022-23 Budget this month, including:

- Lifts at Macquarie Fields Station;
- Measures to combat the rising cost of living;
- More support classes in local schools;
- Edmondson Park High School;
- Air-conditioning in all classrooms and upgrades at schools where students are taught in outdated demountables;
- Greater toll relief;
- Road maintenance to repair dangerous potholes;
- Abandon plans to sell off the farm at Hurlstone Agricultural High School to greedy developers.

The Liberal Government has no excuse – it's time to fund much-needed infrastructure and services.

Residents simply want a fair go and I will continue to fight for our fair share.

Scan the QR code to read my letters to the Liberal Government calling on local projects to be funded in the budget.



Students deserve the very best education possible, which includes necessary support services and environments that enhance learning and concentration.



The rising cost of living hurts everyone, including local businesses when people are forced to cut back on spending.



An accessibility upgrade at Macquarie Fields Station is long overdue. Fund the lifts!



Substantially improved toll relief is essential to addressing the heavy burden tolls place on household budgets.

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JOIN THE CAMPAIGN: MORE SUPPORT FOR LOCAL KIDS

Thank you to everyone in our community who has backed my campaign for more support classes in local schools.

The response to my online petition has been incredible, with residents calling for the resources needed to help local kids reach their potential.

Unfortunately, the situation keeps on getting worse under this Liberal Government.

In answers to my questions to Parliament, it was revealed the Government has so far only approved one extra local support class for 2023.

I've also heard from parents that their child was approved for a support class placement only to be told there's no teacher available to teach the students. Unbelievable!

Let's send the Liberal Government a message and make it clear we want more support classes in our local schools.

Sign my petition by scanning the QR code, calling my office on 9618 2077 or emailing macquariefields@parliament.nsw.gov.au



FAREWELL ANNAMARIA WOOD



Local disability advocate Annamaria Wood has bid a fond farewell to Disability Macarthur in Minto, after 26 years at the helm and a career spanning 46 years in the sector.

Over the years, Annamaria has made an enormous difference to the lives of local families and her contributions to the disability sector will be greatly missed. I wish Annamaria all the best as she embarks on retirement to spend more time with family.

INGLEBURN COMES ALIVE



After a hiatus of two years due to Covid-19, it was a spectacular turnout at Ingleburn Alive on 30 April as crowds of people took the opportunity to come out and join in the festivities.

It was great to be back at the event, meeting with people and enjoying the atmosphere. The event featured free entertainment, a variety of stallholders and food options and of course the ever-popular carnival rides.

COST OF LIVING CRISIS

It's getting harder and harder for families to afford day-to-day basics as the cost of food, petrol, power and housing has surged.

Under this Liberal Government, residents have had to endure:

- Increased fines
- Increased tolls
- Increased taxes
- Record inflation
- Flat wages

Sign my petition calling on the Liberal Government to address the rising cost of living. **Scan the QR code or call 9618 2077 to add your name.**



HIP POCKETS HIT HARD

Petrol	UP	35.1%
Housing	UP	13.7%
Transport	UP	13.7%
Childcare	UP	4.7%
Beef	UP	12.1%
Vegetables	UP	12.7%
Medical	UP	4.6%
Interest rates	UP	0.25%
Real Wages	DOWN	▼

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

TOTAL: **CAN'T AFFORD**



ASSISTANCE FOR ENERGY COSTS

Rebates, solar power offers and lighting upgrades may be available to local residents to help reduce energy costs.

For details of assistance, scan the QR code or call the office on 9618 2077.



COMMUNITY WIN

Residents in Barff Road, Ingleburn and neighbouring streets are celebrating after a long campaign to have their overgrown grass mowed. A simple request that was ignored for far too long.

I wrote to the NSW Minister for Homes calling for urgent action. People were forced to walk on the road because the footpath was inaccessible. This was unacceptable and wrong.

Finally, after contacting Land and Housing again, a positive outcome for residents. A fantastic community win highlighting the fight for local residents' fair share.



BEFORE



AFTER

WHERE'S OUR HIGH SCHOOL?

Now that construction of Edmondson Park primary school has finally commenced after a long community campaign with Anne Stanley MP, families are desperately awaiting news on the delivery of a high school for the suburb.

Many families who moved into the suburb years ago are frustrated that a primary school has taken so long. The primary school is due to open its doors on the first day of school in 2023. Yet for many local students, this will be too late as they will be ready for high school. This is simply unacceptable and unfair. How much longer must families wait for a local high school to be delivered?

All families want is their fair share. Our kids deserve better. Contact my office if you would like to join my campaign for a local high school for Edmondson Park.



Chat with Anoulack...

With ... Megha Sevekari

Macquarie Fields High School graduate and UNSW student, Megha Sevekari, hopes to shine a light on young people's issues through her community work and provide access to academic voices on a range of issues via her podcast series 'Unfounded'.



TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF, MEGHA.

Megha: I'm 22 years of age and live in Ingleburn. I'm in my fifth year of university at UNSW studying a Bachelor of Psychological Science and Law. I'm interested in applying my studies to research-based policy. I'm a proud graduate of Macquarie Fields High School. At school, I was actively involved in public speaking and debating. I remain close friends with a number of my former classmates and we formed the podcast 'Unfounded' together.

THAT'S FANTASTIC, MEGHA. I AM DELIGHTED TO BE AN UPCOMING GUEST ON YOUR PODCAST. WHAT CAN PEOPLE EXPECT FROM YOUR PODCAST?

The podcast 'Unfounded' came to mind with the rise of the BLM (Black Lives Matter) movement.

I created the podcast with two research buddies from high school, as well as friends with marketing and creative skills who live locally. I noticed there was a lot of

discussion on social media about issues that matter to young people but the level of misinformation was alarming. I also noticed a trend toward performative activism, whereby people use social media as a tool to support causes without engaging in genuine activism. Social media is an effective tool, but real change requires a sustained commitment and true action.

Through the podcast, I wanted to create a platform where we could talk about topics through an academic lens. Some of the topics we have covered to date include fast fashion and sustainability; misinformation around COVID-19; world conflicts; and how to improve decision making. Unfounded is available on Spotify and I encourage people to check it out.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THE PODCAST HAS TAUGHT YOU?

An episode on COVID-19 highlighted the geographical barriers experienced during lockdown, when residents in parts of South West and Western Sydney

were unfairly targeted and subjected to some of the harshest restrictions in NSW. Post-pandemic, we must ensure that communities in South West and Western Sydney are treated fairly and with the respect they deserve. I've also come to realise that young people's voices matter. We are the future, after all.

ASIDE FROM UNFOUNDED, YOU'RE INVOLVED IN A COMMUNITY GROUP CALLED SAATH YOUTH.

Saath Youth's vision is to foster positive change. We are motivated to provide a platform for young people to engage and collaborate in the creative and performing arts. Members reflect our community's diversity and share a common goal to help those less fortunate and enrich our community as a whole.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I have a clothing business which blends South-Asian and Western culture through the medium of fashion. It's something I'm keen to pursue more when time permits. I'm passionate about travel and look forward to exploring Australia. I'm particularly keen to visit Alice Springs. Australia is vast and there are many wonderful geographical differences. I look forward to discovering more of our great country.

WHAT IS SOMETHING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I perform traditional Indian dance called Bhatnatyam. It's something I enjoy and a way to connect with my culture.



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** or visit **connectwithanoulack.com**

