

Connect with Anoulack

A community newsletter from Anoulack Chanthivong MP, Member for Macquarie Fields – December 2021



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CHRISTMAS WISH-LIST CALLS FOR OUR FAIR SHARE!



Merry Christmas from my family to yours.

THE YEAR THAT WAS

In many ways, 2021 turned out to be an even more difficult year than 2020.

But, once again, our local community has showed incredible resilience and I am proud of how local residents have answered the call to keep each other safe during the latest COVID-19 outbreak.

My fight for our fair share has continued during 2021, with campaigns to install lifts for Macquarie Fields Station; save the green space at Hurlstone; abolish the unfair M5 East toll; and school upgrades for our growing community.

The Liberal Government continues to ignore South-West Sydney's needs, but I will always advocate to get the best outcome for my constituents.

I was proud to be appointed to the Shadow Cabinet in the Finance, Industry and Trade portfolios and I look forward to helping shape NSW Labor policy to deliver new ideas, new energy, and a positive new vision for the people of NSW.

As we head into the Christmas and New Year period, I send my best wishes to you and your family. Let's hope it's a relaxing and COVID-safe summer.

I assure you my fight for our fair share will continue in 2022!

All our community wants for Christmas is our fair share!

Since first elected in 2015, I've penned a letter to Santa each year highlighting the major issues affecting the Macquarie Fields electorate.

Sadly, there is greater chance of Santa delivering for our community than the Liberal Government.

Our community was unfairly targeted during lockdown and bore the brunt of the Liberal Government's harsh and unfair restrictions. It's time for our community's fair share!

Top of this year's list is a lift for Macquarie Fields Station. The Liberal Government has consistently ignored our needs and politicised station upgrades.

Post-pandemic, we need more secure local jobs, greater financial support for small business, investment in TAFE and training opportunities, and a boost to local manufacturing.

Other top priorities on this year's Wish-List include:

- ✓ Scrap the M5 East toll
- ✓ No tax on the family home
- ✓ Stop overdevelopment and protect green open space
- ✓ Save the Hurlstone Farm
- ✓ More footpaths and recreational areas
- ✓ Upgrade and air-condition our schools.

My Christmas Wish-List is a plea for action, not more empty promises or spin from this Liberal Government. All we want is our fair share.

Visit connectwithanoulack.com to learn more.

INSIDE

Look back on lockdown (P2) Cost of living pain (P3)
Plan for economic recovery (P3) Chat with Anoulack (P4)

BRIGHT LIGHTS SHINE DURING DARK LOCKDOWN

I want to thank every local resident who played their part in fighting the latest outbreak in the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were plenty of examples of shining lights during the darks days of lockdown: frontline healthcare staff; essential workers; parents and teachers grappling with learning from home; community organisations helping the most vulnerable in our community; and every person who willingly adhered to public health orders.

I am also incredibly proud of our community's overwhelming response to get vaccinated. More than 95% of local residents have now received two doses of the vaccine.

South-West and Western Sydney bore the brunt of the Liberal Government's unfair and harsh lockdown measures. But over the past few months, residents have continually proven their resilience and community spirit.

I again express my sincere gratitude to everyone who did their bit to keep us all safe.

With Macquarie Fields High School student leaders, Luke Cox and Shamika GC, presenting healthcare staff at the South Western Sydney Vaccination Centre with cookies in appreciation of their hard work in keeping our community safe.



It was a pleasure to visit ADRA Macquarie Fields with Opposition Leader Chris Minns to see their great work in distributing more than 2000 food hampers and emergency packages during lockdown.

GRANTS PROGRAM DELIVERS FOR COMMUNITY

South West Multicultural and Community Centre (SWMCC) has welcomed a new vehicle thanks to funding through the Community Building Partnership grants program.

The van will be used to distribute food hampers, transport community members to events and enable volunteers to conduct outreach programs.

SWMCC's Mal Fruean (pictured) said the van would help the organisation continue their good work in the community.



LOCKDOWN LEARNING

A huge thank you to our teachers, parents and students on what has been a very difficult year with online learning during lockdown.

You have certainly all earned a break, and I trust that the upcoming holidays are a chance to relax and recharge.

I also want to acknowledge year 12 students who recently sat their HSC exams. The resilience they have displayed during the pandemic will serve them well in the years to come.

Of course, the Liberal Government is yet to deliver a much-needed school for Edmondson Park and Bardia Public School is still waiting for its traffic lights. This is unacceptable. I will continue to advocate for our fair share for local kids.

Visit connectwithanoulack.com to learn more.

STOP THE RISING COST OF LIVING

Household budgets are stretched under this Liberal Government and the cost of living is getting more and more expensive.

Hip pockets are constantly being squeezed by:

- 💰 Ballooning house prices
- 💰 Higher tolls
- 💰 More fines
- 💰 Tax increases

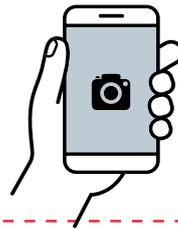
Now, the Liberal Government wants to impose:

- 💰 A never-ending tax on the family home
- 💰 An increase to the GST

I will always stand up for what's fair for my constituents.



Sign my petition to end the Liberal Government's attack on household budgets.



LABOR'S PLAN TO RE-FUEL THE ECONOMY

Small businesses in South-West and Western Sydney took a huge hit under forced closures and harsh restrictions during lockdown, with up to 70% loss of trade.

The Liberal Government must support small and medium enterprises in South-West and Western Sydney to help the NSW economy recover.

The focus needs to be on local manufacturing and industry development to fuel investment in South-West and Western Sydney to provide much-needed jobs.

NSW Labor policy outlines how NSW can rebuild better by:

- ✓ Building public buses, trains, light rail and ferries in NSW.
- ✓ Extending COVID-19 economic support.
- ✓ Extending the payroll tax holiday.
- ✓ Super-charging jobs with a big build on school and social housing.
- ✓ Extending intensive learning catch-up and counsellors in schools.
- ✓ Rebuilding TAFE, not selling it.

I'm proud to be a part of the team to fight for our fair share in South-West and Western Sydney.



With DECO Australia CEO Ross Doonan and Macarthur MP Dr Mike Freeland inspecting locally-made transport signage. Local manufacturing is key to boosting jobs.

Chat with Anoulack...

With ... The Men's Shed

Nestled in the grounds of Break the Cycle Glenquarie is a thriving hub that provides men a safe and friendly environment to come together twice weekly in the spirit of mateship and goodwill. Post lockdown, I caught up with Phil Watt and the team at the Men's Shed in Macquarie Fields to learn more about their work.



WHAT IS THE MEN'S SHED?

Phil: At the Men's Shed we build and repair furniture and other items. But we also make long-lasting friendships, gain new skills and develop a sense of belonging. There are Men's Sheds all around Australia, providing a place for men to come together and connect.

The shed has long been a part of Australian culture. This tradition has evolved with the Men's Shed, to be a place where men can find companionship and purpose – powerful tools in addressing men's mental health and wellbeing.

When men work alongside each other, they connect shoulder to shoulder and this is less confronting than face-to-face, helping men overcome any barriers to talking about issues.

The Men's Shed in Macquarie Fields had humble beginnings with six men in 2012 and today there are 24 members, so we are going from strength to strength.

WHO CAN JOIN THE MEN'S SHED?

Phil: While men from all walks of life can

join the Men's Shed, most of our members are retirees or unemployed. Generally, our members are seeking connection with others, keen to learn new skills or have some routine in their lives. You can come and do woodworking or simply have a chat over a cuppa. There is no pressure either way. Everyone at the Men's Shed is both a teacher and a learner. There is a real sharing of experiences, and everyone benefits in some way.



DOES IT COST TO JOIN?

Phil: Membership is \$15 per year, then \$5 per day for unlimited tea and coffee. A bargain!

WHAT SORT OF PROJECTS DO YOU WORK ON?

Phil: At the Men's Shed we do repairs and build items for community organisations at a fair price. We have made alter tables and communion trays for the Minto Samoan Adventist Church, and supported many other community organisations. The Men's Shed Glenquarie also believes in giving back and each year builds wooden toys to donate to Samaritan Purse's Operation Christmas Child, which sees shoeboxes filled with gifts donated to children in need around the world. We've made rocking horses, planter boxes and A-frame signage. Everything we do is top quality and we aim to reuse or recycle materials, which is better for the environment and helps keep costs down.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR 2022?

Phil: We are heavily reliant on grants to cover a lot of our operating costs and one of our goals is an awning out the front which can be rolled out on hot or wet days to give us more space and help reduce noise.

WHAT DO THE WOMEN/WIVES/PARTNERS THINK OF THE MEN'S SHED?

Phil: They love it as much as we do! People often join a Men's Shed when experiencing a major life change – entering retirement, separating from a partner or finding themselves suddenly unemployed. The Men's Shed provides a supportive environment outside the home, which has positive benefits for everyone. To find out more, or to join, contact 9829 8898.

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

