

Maroochydore | Electorate News

E-NEWSLETTER

Fiona Simpson MP

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE



December 2014

One of the privileges of my work is meeting local community members who are so involved in helping others locally and leaving a legacy of care and kindness. It's a great season to remember the beauty of our area is made even more special by knowing our neighbours and giving a hand.

Let me wish you and your families Merry Christmas, and have a great 2015.

Fiona

Fiona Simpson MP
Member for Maroochydore

Patients put first

More Sunshine Coast residents are getting their surgery on time and now will receive Australia's first state-wide surgery guarantee to have their elective (non-emergency) surgery on time.

Even with an 8% increase in the number of people seen for specialist appointments under the LNP government, more people are being treated and the latest announcement is a positive step forward in the reform to improve patient care.

This is a breakthrough after inheriting years of dysfunction in the health system and backlogs where nearly 1 in 5 Queensland patients waited too long for their surgery.

Wait-times have improved under the LNP in partnership with hard-working clinical staff - and from 1 February 2015, the LNP Government's Wait Time Guarantee will ensure all eligible Queenslanders who are ready for elective surgery will have their procedure within the medically recommended time.

This means that if the Sunshine Coast Health Service cannot provide surgery within this time, then patients will be offered the next available appointment in a public or private hospital at no cost. Patients will not have to pay for any travel or accommodation costs if they are treated more than 50km from their original hospital.

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The Newman Government is working hard to deliver better health services on time.

Australia's first on time surgery guarantee

means should you or your family need surgery, you'll get it within the medically recommended time or you'll be offered the next available appointment in a public or private hospital - at no cost.

Strong team. Strong plan for a better health system.

For more information about the Wait Time Guarantee visit www.qld.gov.au/WaitTimeGuarantee or call 1300 332 807 between 7am and 9pm, 7 days a week.

Local businesses take on the Apprenticeship Pledge

It's great to see that 15 local businesses are providing opportunities for our school leavers by pledging to take on 42 new apprentices this financial year.

The state government is paying employers up to \$6,000 for each additional apprentice to boost training and employment opportunities for our young people.

This is a fantastic opportunity for industry and it will also give confidence to mums and dads that their children will have a better chance at gaining skills and employment.

For more information on the Queensland Apprenticeship Pledge go to www.training.qld.gov.au/pledge.

Pat on the back for Coolum State School readers

Well done to the keen readers from Coolum State School Students who took part in the 2014 Premier's Reading Challenge.

I was delighted to meet some of the students and congratulate them on their achievement. Certificates from Premier Campbell Newman were presented to the students who achieved or exceeded their reading challenge targets.

The Premier's Reading Challenge is a wonderful support for our Great Results Guarantee which this year has seen \$131 million allocated to state schools to build student literacy and numeracy skills.



Coolum State School received a funding boost of \$236,537 for reading and writing programs in 2014 and will receive an additional \$275,070 in 2015.

The Speaker's Christmas Book drive for PNG kids

Our closest neighbour is Papua New Guinea with many children never receiving a basic early education. To do our part to support our neighbour, I am seeking donations of new or good quality used early readers and picture books for the 0 to 6 age group as part of the Queensland Parliament's Christmas Appeal.

During a visit to PNG earlier this year as Speaker, I was able to see first-hand the great work being done by Buk bilong Pikinini who build libraries and provide literacy and numeracy programs for the most vulnerable children in remote PNG communities.

Suncoast Cabs have generously offered to help collect the books locally for Papua New Guinea's neediest children.

Books can be placed under the Christmas tree at my office in First Avenue by 5 December or you can call Suncoast Cabs on 131 008 to arrange for them to be collected. Watch the video here: <http://vimeo.com/112795287>

Support for Salvo's Christmas Wishing Tree Appeal

You can help to spread the joy of Christmas to thousands of children and families in need by supporting the Salvation Army's annual Wishing Tree Appeal



Donations of gifts will help the Salvo's reach their goal in assisting approximately 300,000 people this Christmas.

Shoppers at Sunshine Plaza can place a gift under the Kmart Wishing Tree up until Christmas Eve.

Work to start on new pedestrian refuges for David Low Way

Night works are due to commence on Tuesday 2 December to construct the new pedestrian refuge just north of Seaside Boulevard. The work is expected to take two weeks to complete (weather permitting).

Design work is being finalised for the new pedestrian refuge at Yaroomba, near Yerranya Row with work to commence late December/early January.

During construction work there will be some changes to traffic conditions including reduced speed limits and temporary lane closures.

Maroochydore disability accommodation opened

Seeing three local men with complex disabilities living in their new purpose-built home in Maroochydore was one of those high-five moments you just love to celebrate with the people who've worked tirelessly to make it happen.

The new home is thanks to the hard work and dedication of the families and the local community working together with Government to provide a secure future for Kieran, Graeme, and Peter.

The Holy Spirit Sisters funded the build of home, generous donations from the community helped to furnish it, and on behalf of the State Government, Centacare will provide support to the residents so they can live independently in the community.



Independence Day

on being named among 50 Public Schools next year. The decision will give the school community a greater say in how the school is run and more freedom to

Maroochydore State High of interest state wide and Schools in Queensland next School's Senior Citizenship Award Winner Baillie Morris)



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for Maroochydore State High School

Congratulations to Maroochydore State High School Queensland state schools to become Independent

school community a greater say in how the school is make decisions to directly benefit their students.

School was selected from more than 80 expressions would become one of 130 total Independent Public year. (Pictured: Fiona with Maroochydore High



Sports Funding Winners announced

I was thrilled to announce that the Maroochydore Surf Life Saving Club and the Mooloolaba Outrigger Canoe Club have been awarded \$100,000 each in the latest funding round of the State Government's "Get Playing" grants.

The Maroochydore Surf Club will put the funds towards building new

changing rooms, storage, first aid and training facilities which will help them support lifesavers who keep our beach safe as well as boost their capacity to host the 2016 Australian Surf Life Saving Championship.

The Outrigger Canoe Club will install an access ramp and pontoon for people with a disability to support canoeing and sailing at Mooloolaba.

This money will make a big difference to these hardworking clubs who provide such a fantastic benefit to the community.

“Get Playing” provides grants of up to \$100,000 to improve facilities at grass root sport and recreation clubs across Queensland as part of the Newman LNP Government’s \$68 million Get in the Game program.

maroochydore@parliament.qld.gov.au  www.fionasimpson.com.au
Suite 1 Cnr First and Memorial Avenues Maroochydore QLD 4558  07 5443 7995