



AMANDA RISHWORTH MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR KINGSTON

MEDIA RELEASE

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**2010-11 BUDGET – RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT AND A
FASTER RETURN TO SURPLUS**

The Rudd Government will get the budget back in the black three years ahead of schedule and ahead of every major advanced economy in the world.

Amanda Rishworth MP, the Member for Kingston, said she was thrilled to be part of a government that had worked so hard to keep the economy strong.

“I am proud of the way that the Southern Suburbs of Adelaide have pulled together to keep people in jobs and to help Australia avoid recession, when the rest of the world was in economic turmoil.”

“This budget builds on that strength to deliver for the people in our community while getting the budget back to surplus three years early – which is an extraordinary achievement”

Ms Rishworth said the Budget’s highlight is the way it has converted Australia’s successes during the global recession into even lower unemployment for working families in the South.

“The strong position of the nation’s economy means that the people of Southern Adelaide will be better positioned than anywhere else in the world to take advantage of the opportunities ahead.”

Ms Rishworth said that the 2010-11 Budget would fully fund the recently announced historic health and hospitals reform.

The Budget included an additional \$2.2 billion investment in health, taking the Government’s new investment in health reform to \$7.3 billion over five years, and \$23 billion over the rest of the decade.

The Budget’s new health announcements include investments that will improve access to General Practitioners (GPs) and primary health care, including better after hours services.

The Government also announced \$523 million in additional support and training for our nurses and aged care nurses – the backbone of our health system.

In addition, the Government has invested \$950 million to increase the capacity of emergency departments and reduce waiting times to under four hours at hospitals such as Flinders Medical Centre and Noarlunga Hospital.

“I want to feel confident that the people of Southern Adelaide live in a community where their loved ones have access to health care when they need it most.

“This enormous commitment to health and hospital investment will go a long way to bringing that to people in our community,” said Ms Rishworth.

The Government is providing \$273.7 million over four years to boost the quality of early childhood education and care across Australia.

Ms Rishworth said, “Research shows that a child’s experience in their first five years sets the course of the rest of their life and we want to give kids in our community the best start to their lives.

“I am delighted that families in Southern Adelaide who access the *Hackham West Community JET Crèche* services at Hackham West Community Centre and those who access the *Pathways for Families* program through Family Connections Hackham will benefit from this investment.”

The Government will invest an additional \$154 million over four years in legal assistance programs to improve access to justice in the community.

“The \$83 700 provided to the Southern Community Legal Centre will ensure the continued delivery of legal advice and assistance to separating families in Southern Adelaide through the *Family Relationship Centre- Community Legal Centre Partnership* program.”

In addition, Ms Rishworth said that the investment in superannuation and small business tax relief, released as part of the government’s tax reform package, was also a key component of the Budget.

“I am immensely proud to be part of a government that values the importance of a dignified and secure retirement income.

“It is great to see small business recognised as the engine room of the economy after the crucial heavy lifting they did during the global recession, which kept so many people in the Southern Suburbs of Adelaide in work.

“I am delighted to see **9012** small businesses in Southern Adelaide get tax relief and simplification through instant write-off of assets worth up to \$5,000, so they can spend more time with their customers and less time managing their bookkeeping.”

Further tax reform announced in the Budget will make it easier to fill out tax returns by offering a standard deduction from 1 July 2012.

Ms Rishworth said that the new optional standard deduction will mean you can get \$500 instead of having to claim work-related expenses each tax season, with this increasing to \$1,000 from 1 July 2013.

“Very soon you can forget about the hassle of shoeboxes full of receipts and the costs of getting your tax done at the end of each year”

Ms Rishworth said that the Budget would also contain a new \$652 million fund to support renewable energy and energy efficiency that will help households save on power bills.

“The government is committed to reducing our carbon pollution and tackling climate change.

“This investment will help the people of Southern Adelaide to reduce their emissions and keep their energy bills low.”

Ms Rishworth said that the Government’s significant investment in skills and infrastructure would help to build critical capacity in the economy to create a platform for sustainable growth into the future.

“Because we worked together to come through the global recession so well, we are now in a position of strength and are able to invest in our future prosperity.”

Ms Rishworth reminded residents of the Southern Suburbs of Adelaide that they also have another round of income tax cuts on the way– the third in as many years.

From 1 July this year, individuals will be able to earn up to \$16,000 and not have to pay income tax (up from \$11,000 in 2007-08) due to the Government’s increases to the Low Income Tax Offset.

“This is welcome relief to families and householders in Southern Adelaide that are trying to make ends meet”, said Ms Rishworth.

Ms Rishworth said this is a responsible Budget that further strengthens the economy, helps families in Southern Adelaide and secures future growth.