



Welfare should not be used to fund drug, alcohol or gambling habits

The ongoing Cashless Debit Card trial in Ceduna and East Kimberley has drawn the attention of the nation. The empirical evidence clearly shows harmful drinking, drug taking and gambling has decreased and the lives of families and children are much improved.

People on the card, which does not include Age Pensioners, have 80 per cent of their welfare benefits, quarantined to a debit card with electronic bars on buying alcohol, gambling and cash withdrawals.

Mismanagement of lifestyle is not an indigenous only issue and the card should not be seen as an indigenous solution.

The Ceduna community has led the nation and it is time for the next step to expand trials into different types of communities, so it was incredibly disappointing Labor, after previously assisting, has refused to support new sites, particularly the one proposed for Bundaberg, a large urban predominately white community in Queensland.

In a compromise the three NXT Senators agreed to support Kalgoorlie as a third trial site begging the question as to why allow it in a higher

indigenous population community and not the other?

Mandatory Drug Testing will Target Assistance to Users

In a different but associated issue the Labor/Greens/NXT grouping in the Senate have refused the Government's proposed trial of mandatory drug testing for people on JobStart and Youth Allowance in three selected sites across the country.

Welfare recipients in the trial who test positive to illicit drugs would be placed on the Cashless Welfare Card, no reduction in income, just an insistence that at least 80% be spent on the individual caring for themselves properly and preparing themselves for work.

A repeat positive test will lead to them being directed to treatment and rehabilitation to put them back in control of their lives and assist them in getting a job.

Those who knock back a test or treatment run the risk of having their payments suspended. I urge people to get in touch with the NXT and Labor Senators to tell them to support this important change.

Wudinna



Wudinna District Council Mayor Eleanor Scholz and Office Manager Andrew Buckham showing Rowan plans for the new council and community area.

Gambling Reform

Australia is a gambling nation and while I enjoy an occasional flutter at the races, like many I have become increasingly concerned at the promotion of gambling during sporting fixtures. These events are watched by children of all ages and the advertisements are a dangerous message to young minds.

Many members share my views and called on the Government to act. On March 30 wide ranging restrictions on gambling advertising during live sport on television and radio came into force. The new rules establish a clear safe zone prohibiting gambling advertising during live sport broadcasts between the hours of 5am and 8:30pm, from 5 minutes before the scheduled start of play until 5 minutes after. These are in addition to existing rules banning the promotion of live odds and preventing the broadcast of gambling advertisements during a period of play such as when a goal is kicked.



Burra



Rowan was pleased to join Regional Council of Goyder Mayor Peter Matthey to celebrate his 40 years in Local Government in the amazing old Unicorn Brewery in Burra. Pictured with Peter are Deputy Mayor Jane Kellock and CEO David Stevenson.

PM and Ministers' Big Win Reversing US Tariffs on Steel

Australia has been spared Donald Trump's steel tariffs following the strong diplomatic handling of the issue by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and a number of our leaders including Julie Bishop, Trade Minister Steven Ciobo and US Ambassador Joe Hockey.

The reminder that the US has a significant trade surplus with Australia and we do not threaten their markets through either low wages or subsidies convinced them there was no merit in punishing our steel industry.

While Whyalla was not in the direct firing line any tariff could have consequences to Whyalla in the future. I am concerned about any country retreating behind a tariff wall; it will not only harm their trading partners, in the longer term it is far more likely to be

worse for them.

In the US's case more expensive steel means more expensive cars and machinery, which are major US exports.



Rowan joined in the Whyalla Christmas pageant with Sanjeev Gupta, the new owner of Liberty OneSteel.

State Election Result Will Benefit Grey

The decision of the South Australian people to elect a Liberal government after 16 years is a significant event. The Labor period of government is one where our state has significantly diminished as a portion of Australia. The current Federal redistribution triggered by the loss of yet another seat from our state is a graphic demonstration of the decline. In the 1990s we had thirteen Members of the House of Representatives, next election we will have ten. Grey will grow by the equivalent of an entire state seat, meaning it will encompass around five and half state seats. The new Marshall team aims to end the wasteful 'bread and circuses' spending in the inner city

and redirect the resources to the productive areas of our economy, especially in our country areas. We need desperately to grow our economy and produce thousands of new jobs to stop the terrible drain on our young talent to other states. It is interesting that when public attention focussed on Mr Xenophon's credentials and his lack of policies and the man who for two decades performed every stunt under the sun, the electorate found him wanting. I am now looking forward to a State government which will work with me to bring development to our regions instead of blaming the Federal Government for all its failings.

Yongala



Small communities are fighting to preserve their heritage. Yongala has received a \$4000 Building Stronger Communities grant to assist with historical signage and the community is hoping to carry out further upgrades around the main street. Rowan discussed the plans with Ramon Miller.

Quorn



Quorn - John Simpson from FeetnFrames has become famous throughout the movie world for his production of special sound effects. Rowan was delighted to meet him and Dave Hughes in Quorn recently.

Port Lincoln



Port Lincoln Business Awards - Rowan was pleased to meet Mark and Janie Butterworth of Beer Garden Brewing who won New Business of the Year. Rowan who has since visited their brewery says their beer tastes excellent.

Kadina



Kadina - Chatting with Carol and Bob Stein who were volunteering for the YP Veteran's sausage sizzle at the monthly markets. The markets are fundraisers for the local Rotary Club who redistribute funds to the local, national and international communities.

Port Pirie



Port Pirie - Rowan visited the Men's Shed in Helping Hand's Lealholme facility which received a \$7000 Stronger Communities grant. He enjoyed a chat with Therese Johnson, Graham Jones and Colin Hards.

Crystal Brook



Proof of the innovation of our farming community at the Society of Precision Ag Aust (SPAA) Forum at Crystal Brook in late March. 170 people from around SA and interstate attended. Rowan caught up with Brett Reid, Wandearah; Allan Mayfield, Clare; Robbie Wandel, Hart and Phil Longmire from Condungup WA.

Sheringa



Sheringa - The opening of a new Telstra mobile phone tower supported by the Federal Black Spots Program is making a big difference in the area. Rowan enjoyed a cuppa with Sam Wright, Michelle Nuske, Telstra's Mark Bolton, and Alison and Scott Wandel.

Port Pirie



Wonderful to see the involved parents at Port Pirie West Children's centre giving their children the best start in life. I enjoyed meeting the enthusiastic staff at the centre on Harmony Day.

Whyalla



Whyalla - At the Edward John Eyre High School presentation night Rowan really enjoyed meeting the 2016 Dux of the school, Ibunkun Oloruntoba who is now studying medicine at Monash.

Heywire Winner



Cummins - Among ABC's Heywire competition young winners in Canberra this year was Mitchell Barnes from Cummins who wrote of the support his Cougars Football mates gave him as he was losing his Dad.

Peterborough



Rowan attended the RSL Remembrance Day Service in Peterborough in November. Whilst there he was able to catch up with former Peterborough resident and local journalist Shane Mills who now lives near Clare.

Port Augusta



Port Augusta - The large street market is always a good time to buy gifts and catch up with people; the weather was glorious. With more than 80 stallholders offering a large variety of products, live music and plenty to eat, the markets are a huge success and a great day out.

Port Pirie
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Tel: 8633 1744

Kadina
43 Taylor Street 5554
(08) 8821 4366

Whyalla
45a Playford Avenue
Tel: 8645 4255

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Rowan Ramsey Federal Member for Grey

Grey, a great place to live and work...

Good Government Management is Leading to Amazing Jobs Growth, Good Economic Figures and Confidence

There is no doubt we are dealing with a difficult Senate and have been frustrated by opportunistic Labor/Greens' blockages and an unpredictable cross bench.

However, we are providing the government and policies Australia needs as witnessed by the terrific job and economic figures. **Australia has witnessed its best ever jobs growth.** Unfortunately we have only seen half what would be expected in South Australia, but with the new change of government we look forward to SA taking its fair share in Australia's emerging success.

Job ads are 13.8% higher than a year ago, business confidence is strong, consumer confidence is at a four year high and best of all, **420,700 new jobs were created in the last year,**

78% of them full-time.

Those workers will no longer need Newstart and will be contributing to Australia through their taxes. This kind of success builds on itself. In lifting our figures we lift the standard of living for all Australians.

From January to December 2017, 133 Bills passed through both Houses, including Bills dealing with the National Disability Insurance Scheme; the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; clamping down on foreign tax evasion and union corruption, Medicinal Cannabis; reduced taxes for middle income earners and small and medium business and guaranteeing Medicare's financial basis. We are getting on with the job and Australia is being energised.



New Office Opened in Kadina



Recognising the largest electorates in Australia are difficult to service, Grey has been granted a third office which Rowan has located at Kadina.

The Copper Coast is the fastest growing region in Grey. Former President of the Senate the Hon Alan Ferguson opened the office in December. He is pictured with former Member for Goyder Steven Griffiths and Member for the new seat of

Narungga, Fraser Ellis. The new office is staffed by Courtney Stephens and Meredith Westbrook. Please call in or ring the office on 86214366 for advice on any Federal issues.

This office gives additional access options for appointments and community focus but Rowan is very happy to meet people anywhere within Grey, time permitting.

Continuing the Quest to Seal the Strzelecki Track



I have been a strong advocate for sealing the 498km Strzelecki Track. It would bring the Cooper Basin supply line back to SA, provide thousands of extra cattle for our processing chains and open up one of the nation's great tourism routes. I was gratified when a report commissioned by RDAFN, the OCA and the Flinders Ranges Council provided solid data for the points I had been making about the economic benefits to the state of this project.

At the moment the 372km from Lyndhurst to Moomba can take heavy transport up to 12 hours to traverse and the road is closed in excess of 40 days a year. No wonder anyone who can avoid it does.

It costs SA a fortune in lost trade and opportunity.

Australia is still heavily dependent on our regional areas. We produce the large majority of our exports which ultimately dictate the standard of living we can achieve. That is why, even though they may not recognise it, our cities are as reliant on efficient regional transport routes and infrastructure investment as those of us who live in the country. While it has taken years to get a state commitment I look forward to working with Dan van Holst Pellekaan and new State Minister Stephan Knoll to bring this project to a reality.



Rowan with Chair OCA Cecilia Woolford, David Ridgeway MLC, Chair RDAFN Jen Cleary, Chair RDASA Rob Kerin and Terry Stephens MLC.

Rowan Ramsey MP April 2018

In February I was pleased to have three ministers in Grey and we visited a number of towns including Kadina, Laura, Wallaroo, Nonning Station, Roxby Downs, Andamooka, Ceduna, Peterborough, Port Pirie, Napperby, Whyalla, Kimba and Cowell.

A Week Between Parliament

Friday

A visit to the Clean Seas facility at Royal Park gave an insight into their new operations and after spending the rest of the day in Kadina and Port Pirie offices, that evening Rowan opened the Laura Twilight Market.



Saturday

Rowan opened Copper Coast Battle Dragon's new shed at Wallaroo and then attended a Royal Flying Doctor fundraising dinner at Nonning Station via Iron Knob. Congratulations to the Gawler Ranges Progress Association on the enormous work they put in to host this event.



Monday

Rowan drove to Roxby Downs and Andamooka where he had the opportunity to talk to locals. In Andamooka the Progress and Opal Miners' Association showed him the ongoing issues with the town dump. That night he held a constituents forum in the Roxby Tavern.



Tuesday

Hosting Minister for Aged Care the Hon Ken Wyatt and Senator David Fawcett in Ceduna at various facilities gaining a strong knowledge of local care face to face. Ran into Gavin Wanganeen who was working with locals at the art centre. Held a Health and Aged Care forum at the Ceduna Hotel jointly hosted with Member for Flinders Peter Treloar.



Wednesday

Rowan took Minister Wyatt to Peterborough to discuss the extensive plans the local HAC has for relocation of the aged care facility to the hospital site and the extended renovations required. That evening he attended a Port Pirie Business dinner.



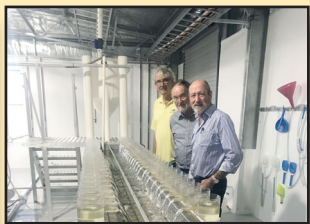
Thursday

Education Minister Simon Birmingham joined Rowan in the Port Pirie area visiting local schools, Napperby Primary, Solomontown Primary, John Pirie High and the Mid North Christian College.



Friday/Saturday

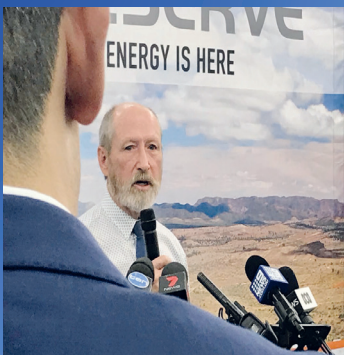
Assistant Ag Minister Anne Ruston, Rowan and Mark Walsh visited Lienert Engineering and Eyre Premium Hay's new facilities in Kimba. The next day they inspected the new Eyre Shellfish oyster hatchery in Cowell. It is a great credit to the investors and essential to the long-term sustainability of the industry.



Federal Committment to Storage for Renewable Energy will Bring Reliability, Lower Costs and Ensure a Sustainable Future

SA has the most expensive and least reliable electricity system in the nation largely caused by the premature shut-down of the Northern Power Station. By comparison, Federally we are working hard to bring about a steady, stable and cost effective move to renewable energy. Increasingly it is clear that the biggest challenge to renewable energy is despatchability, which is why we are focussed on energy storage solutions. In February the Energy and Environment Backbench Committee visited the Snowy Hydro scheme and viewed the proposals and

sites for Snowy 2.0. The giant hydro battery will provide 2000MGw for up to 16 days. By comparison the world's biggest battery can provide 100MGw for one hour and seventeen minutes. Here in SA we are backing similar but much smaller pumped hydro projects near Port Augusta. It was gratifying to see Solar Reserve opening their office in Port Augusta. It is a facility that incorporates storage and thus stability to our grid which is why we have committed \$110m to the project.



Burra



Maitland



Late last year we were fortunate to have Foreign Minister Julie Bishop visit the electorate. While in Burra she caught up with locals outside St Just Café and discussed the impact of electricity prices and penalty rates on weekend services. In 2017 the town was heritage listed and the community is looking to capitalise on this new status.

I enjoyed celebrating Maitland's 140th annual show with the now State Member for Narungga Fraser Ellis and my Kadina staff member Courtney Stephens. President of the show Graham Matchoss made special mention of Beryl Newman for her work on the history of the show. There were many good things to see and do; congratulation to the volunteers who work hard to put the day on.

Tunarama



Port Lincoln's iconic Tunarama event was another huge success, with three cruise ships in town in four days adding to the crowd. The Federal Government provided \$15,000 towards a new marquee which received significant use during the event. On Saturday Rowan joined long-time mate Kym Kenny in the street procession in Kym's newly restored Mini Moke.

Foreign Donations Have No Role in our Electoral Process

In December the Turnbull Government introduced legislation banning foreign political donations, however Australian entities have a legitimate role in influencing Australian elections and political processes and it must be their fundamental right to do so. It is an essential freedom of speech. However foreign governments, foreign billionaires and companies have no role in influencing Australian politics. The Bill does not restrict charities and not for profits from receiving overseas donations for genuine charitable works such as medical research, conservation or aid projects but the use of foreign donations for political purposes will be illegal and regulated by the Australian Electoral Commission. AEC data informs us that political campaign groups like GetUp spent \$40m in 2015-16 influencing Australian votes. This legislation will not restrict them in becoming involved in the political process, it just means they will not be able to use foreign donations with its invisible strings attached to do so.

Shorten's Attack Targets People on Low Incomes

Bill Shorten's plan to eliminate franking refunds to low income shareholders who have managed to accumulate a few shares through their working life will not only penalise people on low incomes, it will dissuade people from saving for their retirement. Before a company declares a dividend it is taxed 30% on its profits thus reducing its dividend by that amount. It is effectively a withholding tax held on the individual's behalf. If the recipient earns below the income tax threshold of \$18,200 pa, they are not and should not be liable to pay any tax. Under the current arrangements they have for many years, quite rightly, received the tax paid by the company back as a cash refund. If by comparison the individual has an income in excess of \$180k and receives the same dividend their legitimate tax rate is 47% tax (the top marginal rate) but their total tax bill will be reduced by the 30% already paid by the company. This measure avoids taxing the same income twice. Shorten's plan will legislate a permanent bias against low wealth self-funded retirees, but will not affect high income retirees. It is absurd! If it sounds complicated, it's because it is, but even so, one would have thought Shorten would be able to work it out. This policy will negatively affect anyone in the bottom two tax levels, those with incomes up to \$37k. More than one million Australians with small shareholdings will pay more tax including pensioners, part pensioners, veterans, war widows and self-funded retirees; inflicting the biggest penalty on those with the smallest share-holdings. In addition to penalising low-income superannuants, it would also swing investment away from Australia's most productive sectors to our east. For Labor, it continues the trend of taxing and spending ever more. So far they have promised around \$200bn of new taxes, seemingly convinced they know far better how to spend your money than you do. Contrary to "robbing the rich to pay the poor," this policy hurts the poor and does not affect the rich.

Standing up for Australian Values

Modern Australia is built on immigration. It is the world's most outstanding example of inter-racial tolerance. At different times waves of immigrants have come from different parts of the world to join this great melting pot that is Australia. Sometimes these groupings have not integrated as well as others and have been associated with local gangs and high levels of criminal activity. However, unlike other countries which have barred these new settlers citizenship rights, we have strived to include new residents and challenged them to become citizens. It has served us well! Generations of our migrant population have become the proudest Australians of all, totally committed to our egalitarian principles. Having said that, it is patently obvious that Australia can only retain a strong immigration program as long as the general public feels safe and is confident the Government has the situation under control. That is why Australians strongly back the Coalition's strong border policy, but at the moment, despite our secure borders, people are alarmed at Islamist extremists both here and abroad and many are far from relaxed. Most difficult for us to understand are second and third generation Australians turning to extremism and terrorist activities. It is clear much of the cause of the unrest lies in the fact some cultures have not integrated into Australia as well as others and consequently

have not shared in the economic and cultural success of the nation. Low success fosters cultural ghettos. The Coalition Government has the message and has been attempting to toughen up our citizenship criteria. We want citizens who will back Australian values and ideals; who will be prepared to defend this country, who will love, honour and obey our laws. We are searching for citizens who believe in freedom of speech and recognise that with rights, come responsibilities. They also joined hands to reject reforms increasing the general residence requirements, pledging allegiance to Australia above all others and that applicants demonstrate their commitment to integration. The biggest determining factor of success in our nation is not religion, race or work ethic, but English language skills. Educational success is determined by English skills, disenchantment with Australia is fostered by generational unemployment and disconnection. Simply, we want our immigrants to succeed. Whether they be general immigrants or refugees, their path to economic and social success lies in their education path.

Regional Development and Decentralisation- the Case for Reinvigoration

I have a wide range of responsibilities within the parliament including the role of Government Whip. I am also a member of Backbench Committees and five Standing Committees, including the Special Select Committee on Regional Development and Decentralisation. As population in our cities explode and the hidden cost of their expansion is largely ignored, the urgency for revitalisation of our regions, not only ensuring our future but also relieving pressure on the cities, is apparent. We have been engaging with communities all over Australia to learn of the secret of their success to guide our recommendations for policy changes aimed to assist in invigorating our regional areas. Certainly our long-term population and employment trends indicate we need to do something different to what we have done in the past. We have met some fabulous businesses, communities and individuals who have broken

new ground. Some of the highlights have been: -NSW re-location of their entire Agriculture Department to Orange more than 20 years ago. -In Geraldton we learned of the combined power of government and private investment at their COTA regional education hub. -The booming economy of Toowoomba powered by the Coal Seam Gas revolution has triggering a local family's investment of \$200m in a local international freight airport and the establishment of a major data storage unit. Toowoomba has an annual growth rate of 5%. While the committee is yet to report, a common thread has emerged; where success exists, it exists on the back of enthusiastic and totally committed local communities and individuals. If there are powerful local drivers they will attract support from investment partners.

Working Towards Suicide Prevention

Many families have been tragically touched by suicide in Grey and in an effort to address this growing crisis the Government has invested in a National Suicide Prevention Strategy which has funded a series of forums and trials across Grey. To raise awareness of the issue I have tabled a Private Members Motion in the Parliament supporting a continuation of the program and will highlight its successful actions. Grey was selected to be part of the trial and as part of the commitment forums have been conducted in Whyalla, Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Port Lincoln and Yorke Peninsula providing an evidence-based, integrated approach to suicide prevention aimed at helping local communities reduce suicide attempts and deaths. In conjunction with this serious focus on mental

health, I am awaiting the imminent opening of the new Whyalla Headspace unit, an investment I lobbied for over an extended period. It will work hand in hand with the very successful Port Augusta facility. Headspace in Whyalla will provide support to young people between 12 and 25 in regional South Australia experiencing stress and depression. The next task is to establish similar facilities in our other regional centres. In January the Federal Government provided an extra \$110m for youth mental health, helping teachers assist students with depression, anxiety and other mental health issues and providing more support for the Headspace program.



This year was a chance for Rowan to head home for Kimba's Australia Day breakfast. Pictured are the award winners. Later Rowan and Teresa called into Darke Peake where locals were enjoying a game of cricket in the main street. Demonstrating Australia's diversity, rain stopped play while he was there.



Worsening Rural Doctor Shortage



Streaky Bay has recently joined the list of towns with vacancies for doctors in the Grey electorate. We are currently looking for 29, up by a dozen on twelve months ago. I have repeatedly warned that as the numbers of locally trained doctors graduating from our universities increase, we will cease importing doctors from overseas to fill country vacancies and while we will suffer shortages there will be chronic over-servicing in our cities. The Federal Government supports a wide range of programs to encourage doctors into country practice, but we fall further behind. I have repeatedly called for the introduction of Postcode Specific Medicare Provider Numbers.

Attention on Diabetes



Rowan was very pleased to meet Connor Gilfillan in his Kadina office recently. Connor is part of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation 'Kids to Canberra' campaign this year and will visit in August. Rowan is the Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Diabetes and spends many hours working with national diabetes groups. He will also walk with Connor later this year in the JDRF One Walk campaign.



Rowan is pictured discussing mental health issues with Country SAPHN Regional Manager, Emma Young and Regional Coordinator Country SAPHN Yorke & North, Courtney Thorpe.