

The number of families throughout Grey seeking basic access to childcare are increasing by the day. I invited Shadow Minister for Early Years Childhood Education Angie Bell to the electorate in April to listen and speak with families who deal with the issues every day. As a former South Australian and passionate advocate for early learning opportunities, she was delighted to oblige. We heard firsthand of the stresses placed on young parents, families, including grandparents as they work hard to try and paper over the cracks- family members flying in or travelling hundreds of kilometres to provide adhoc childcare so parents can work shifts at the

Shadow Minister Visits Grey on Childcare

local hospital or accept a short-term teaching contract. Clearly the issue is having a detrimental impact on families and needs to be addressed. It's a conundrum. While in government we almost doubled expenditure on childcare to more than \$11bn and yet clearly gaps still remain. Now the new Government has committed a further \$4.7bn with the admirable aim of increasing wages. Unfortunately, the new money provides no new childcare places so the underserved towns like Cummins and Tumbly Bay, (which we visited) will not be able to secure any additional places. Even more disadvantaged are

those towns without an established service like Wilmington, Crystal Brook, Ardrossan and Orroroo. I commend the variety of childcare working groups made up of busy parents and community members who are strong advocates for the needs of their children and families. Angie has committed to returning ASAP to further meet with families and we will use the information and experience to put forward regional solutions before the next election. The Shadow Minister is pictured with Nancy Stewart OAM of Tumbly Bay who provides a regular playgroup session which supports local families who cannot access childcare places.



Connor Hogan Local Champion

If you haven't seen South Australian Moto Trials Champion and international competitor Connor Hogan in action, you are missing something special. Originating from Bangor, Connor has competed on the Trials World Championship Circuit for several years against the best riders in the world. He was a special guest at the Eudunda Show in November where he demonstrated what is possible with balance, precision and throttle control as he took on a range of obstacles, including his dad! How does he do it? It is like he is part of the bike and vice versa. Rowan caught up with Connor after his demonstration in Eudunda.



Cost of Living Pressures

John Lennon nailed it in his song Beautiful Boy - "Life is what happens while you're busy making other plans." No-one should suggest that running the country is easy. Governments are often thrown unanticipated challenges, but it is how they respond to those challenges on which they should be judged. Prime Minister Albanese can rightfully claim he did not expect Russia's criminal invasion of Ukraine, but it is far from the most difficult challenge Australian governments have

Dr Jim Chalmers. Apparently Australia was a lost cause when they took government! Actually, most of the pressures now on the economy were predictable at the time of the election, even the Russian invasion occurred more than three months prior so we can only assume they had a fair idea what pressures would be put on our economy when they committed to three central promises: cheaper mortgages, increasing real wages and reducing power prices by \$275. Now almost twelve months since

the election it is worth having a look into how Labor is going with those promises. Nine interest rate rises since the election have increased the Cash Rate by 3.3 percent and carried mortgages to around 6.3 percent. Real wages



Rowan was impressed with the work being done at WISE Employment Port Lincoln finding employment outcomes for people with disability. The facility supports clients to gain skills and secure the right job. He had a great chat with client Alex Giumelli.



The Matthew Flinders Home in Port Lincoln is an aged care success story. Rowan was honoured to open the new \$7m, 20 bed extension fully funded by the facility. He is with City of Port Lincoln Mayor Diana Mislov, Chair Steve Kemp, Bendigo Bank's Mark Carr and CEO Nikki Meredith.

Live Sheep Exports

The most recent numbers on mortality in the live sheep export trade are exemplary and being ignored by the Labor Party which is committed to shutting down the industry. The latest vessels, vastly improved with sophisticated ventilation, decreased stocking density, highly regulated diet, onboard vets and independent inspectors are averaging mortality rates of just point three of one percent. It is an astonishingly low figure and deserves recognition. The trade is centred on WA providing an important separate market for growers and the communities relying on them. Importantly for us here in SA, it is a safety valve allowing excess numbers of older sheep to be taken out of the market which would

otherwise find their way east to our supply chain. Considering around 50 percent of WA processed sheep meats are sold to China and given recent trade difficulties, it's easy to see why growers Australia-wide are so concerned with the Government's intention. The closure of the live sheep trade would not eliminate the practice, it will just divert the source of the animal to countries across Africa and the Black Sea where animal welfare standards are far lower than here. Around 3500 people work in regionally-based jobs required by the industry. The Government's stated intention is a graphic example of inner-city eastern elites doling out policy from Canberra. Even the WA Labor Premier is opposed to the move.

Burra Community School



Burra Community School recently visited Canberra and Rowan was delighted to meet the students and answer their questions. Canberra is a great school excursion, with a host of other attractions such as the Royal Australian Mint, Australian War Memorial, Institute of Sport and Questacon all providing great interactions for the students.

Yorke Peninsula Leisure Options



Yorke Peninsula Leisure Options is providing a vitally important service to clients with disabilities in Minlaton. Rowan was pleased to drop in to discuss the program with organiser Tanya Walsh and meet and talk to some of the clients. He is with Emily and Jarrod, who showed Rowan one of his latest works.

Yunta Race Club



The new Yunta Race Club is unbelievable, undoubtedly one of the best in outback Australia. Assisted by a \$160k Drought Communities Program grant, the club received enormous voluntary (5000 hrs) and material support. Rowan is with President Warren Breeding and Melanie Lewis and Chris Duthy - the design and building team.

Kadina Uni Hub



The Uni Hub program is an outstanding success, opening up tertiary education options for country residents. Now with five hubs in Grey, Rowan persisted to secure a four-year funding deal and joined Kim Gregory, Anita Kuss, Sue Barry, Brenton Vanstone and Mayor Ros Talbot from the Uni Hub Spencer Gulf in Kadina to celebrate.

Port Pirie
104 Ellen Street
Tel: 8633 1744

Heywire Winner



The ABC Heywire event is a great opportunity to meet young ambassadors from Grey. Rowan is with Zane Hunter of Port Pirie who wrote of his respect for his grandfather and his community commitment. Zane is School Captain at John Pirie Secondary School- it seems he is already following in his grandfather's footsteps!

Joy Baluch AM Bridge



The opening and walkover of the fully revamped Joy Baluch AM Bridge in Port Augusta was a great public celebration for the city. Rowan joined hundreds in strolling across the old bridge, now all but identical to the new one, and took this photo of the very excited Ignite Cheer and Dance group who danced the length of the bridge.

Wilmington Gym Opening



Rowan was in Wilmington in February to open the new community gym. With the assistance of a \$100k Federal Government grant the enthusiastic committee led by Marie Story worked for six years to bring it to fruition. Rowan is with the hard-working committee resting on some flash equipment.

Whyalla Secondary School



Whyalla Secondary College held an Open Day in January and Rowan was given an extensive tour by Assistant Principal Year 7 & 8 Pete Usher. What an impressive building! Secondary students in Whyalla now have a world-class learning facility. Principal Tricia Richman also joined us to discuss the school.

Kadina
43 Taylor Street
Tel: 8821 4366

Crystal Brook Athletics Carnival



The success of the Crystal Brook Classic which attracts the state's top runners was confirmed by SA Athletics signing of a three-year contract extension at this year's event. Well done to the Crystal Brook Footy Club and organisers Shane Arbon and Lee Jackson. Rowan is with them and Lindsay Thomas.

Colour Tumbly Festival



Rowan enjoyed the fantastic Colour Tumbly Festival, a major drawcard for the region with people enjoying beautiful weather and amazing street and silo art. The festival showcases the best of the town's arts and cultural precinct. Live outdoor music and entertainment was a new addition to the festival program in 2023.

Jamestown Community School



Rowan attended Jamestown Community School GEM (Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness) Festival during November and caught up with school leader Jess McKay. Jess was dux of the school, a participant in the Country Education State and National Rural Ambassador program and is studying at university this year.

Laura Golden North 100th



A 100th birthday is a reason to celebrate anyway, but for an icecream company that has for five years won the national Canstar Blue award for its tub icecream, it is remarkable. Made from fresh milk and cream, SA owned, it is clearly the best! Rowan is with staff marking this special milestone.

Whyalla
45a Playford Avenue
Tel: 8645 4255

Rowan Ramsey Federal Member for Grey



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

What to Make of the Voice

Australia will head to a referendum on inserting a Voice to Parliament in the Constitution later this year. The Liberal Party supports constitutional recognition of Aboriginal people's place in Australia prior to European settlement and their ongoing contribution to our nation. However, we reject the proposal seeking to insert an avenue for an appointed body with uncertain powers to speak to Parliament and/or approach the executive arms of government. I fully support the Liberal Party position. The reach and powers of this body are far from clear and seem likely would be determined by the High Court on a case-by-case basis. Prime Minister Albanese's assurances this would not be the case are undermined by those around him. For instance, Chair of the Voice working group Prof Megan Davis said in February, "There is a misconception that it (the Voice) will have no power and it will have no influence. It will have a lot of power because it's a constitutional voice that is mandated by the Australian people and that gives it a lot of power." Former High Court Judge Ian Callinan said, "I would foresee a decade or more of constitutional and administrative law litigation

arising out of a Voice." Prof Greg Craven, a member of the Government's working group and personally in favour of recognition says the proposal is "far worse than he had contemplated." By all accounts Mr Albanese has rejected the advice of both Attorney General Mark Dreyfus KC and Solicitor General Michael Kingston, against the executive government clause which at its worst could call into question every decision made within a department. The Voice would be empowered to insert itself

"Rather than focussing on race, Australia should double down on efforts to address disadvantage wherever or to who it occurs...."

in all decisions affecting Indigenous people and while Mr Albanese says the matters would be few, others say it could include almost every decision of Government. There are also deeper underlying questions not getting the attention they deserve. While generally current outcomes for Indigenous people in Australia are unacceptable, our

laws are not discriminatory and do not hinder any individual, living proof being the eleven Indigenous people sitting in the current Parliament. Further, it should be asked how this body would succeed where the current plethora of advisory bodies fail. We already have an Indigenous Advisory Council, more than 30 land councils, 2,700 Aboriginal Corporations and the Coalition of Peaks, representing the 70 top Aboriginal Corporations. All provide advice to governments and asserting they are not consulted or listened to is complete rubbish. Almost 8 percent of my Grey constituents are Indigenous and I strive for equitable opportunity for every one of them. I am deeply concerned providing special access to government by one group determined by race will divide rather than unite Australia. Human Rights Commissioner Lorraine Finlay said it "would insert race in the Constitution in a way that undermines the foundation of human rights principals of equality and non-discrimination." Rather than focussing on race, Australia should double down on efforts to address disadvantage wherever or to whom it occurs.

Shadow Minister's Hometown Visit

I was very pleased to welcome former Port Augusta boy and Shadow Minister for Trade and Tourism Kevin Hogan back to his hometown recently. In a busy day we first visited operations at Sundrop Farms inspecting tomatoes in various stages of growth and meeting workers. Later we checked solar energy components used to produce desalinated water and heat for the 20ha of sophisticated greenhouses. In an encouraging sign, we are now beginning to see product labelling with their name on it. Next followed a working lunch with RDA Far North and Business Port Augusta where we focussed on the plans a range of organisations have for the area and some of the challenges including a shortage of suitable housing, labour and anti-social behaviour. On the upside, there is a positive mood emanating from the completion of the second bridge which is catering for the ever-increasing traffic loads from our growing northern and western economies. That expanding freight task is why we need a commitment from both State and Federal governments to complete the duplication of the Augusta Highway following completion of the Lochiel section. Later we met with the companies wishing to develop the old power station site. Agile Mining



Rowan Ramsey MP May 2023

Eighteen Months with No Regional Funding Program

The announcement in last May's Budget that the Albanese Government was scrapping the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) Round 6 and Community Development Grants (CDG) has left regional Australia with no funding source for big community projects.

In Grey alone more than \$31m has been invested in 53 worthwhile projects over the first five rounds of the Coalition program.

These projects have brought enormous economic and social benefits to regional areas.

In Grey the Remarkable Southern Flinders Project, Silver to Sea Way, Bundaleer Precinct Upgrade, Cowell Foreshore development, Balaklava Pool, Elliston Fibre-Radio Telephone System and numerous sporting facility upgrades including the Clare Oval Redevelopment are among projects which have brought jobs and prosperity to hardworking communities.

Labor has said it will establish three new programs to replace the BBRF, which is their prerogative, but with the Government already almost a year old, and 18 months with no significant regional funding, our patience is wavering.

For around 23 organisations who had spent considerable time and money preparing applications for BBRF Round 6, it has been a disappointment to see that work thrown in the bin and then watch the months roll by.



Rowan recently visited the construction site of the Moonta Historic Mine which received \$4,941,765 as part of the Federal Government's \$61.7 million budget for environmental restoration and recovery through the \$1 billion COVID Relief Fund.

We are now just days away from the Government's second budget.

My simple advice to the Government is to make your announcements, get out some guidelines and do not allow the regional pool to be watered down by including metropolitan suburbs into the "regional" criteria as happened last time they were in government.



The new Balaklava Pool For All project is a wonderful example of the BBRF at work. Rowan was delighted to join Wakefield Regional Council Mayor Rodney Reid at the opening. The BBRF provided 50 percent of the required \$3m. Well done to council, with support coming from the State Government.



A huge crowd attended the opening of the Cowell Foreshore Precinct featuring water park, marina, restaurant and new boat ramp access for the oyster industry. The \$6.5m project received \$3m from BBRF. Rowan is with DC of Franklin Harbour Mayor Robert Walsh but thought maybe most of the crowd came to see Shannon Noll, not the opening.

Seeking to Balance Emissions and Manufacturing Jobs

The rise in atmospheric CO₂ levels from 290ppm in 1900 to 414.4ppm in 2021 is indisputable.

The last time it reached these levels was about 4m years ago. While the effect these levels have on the environment is debatable, most agree it is causing the atmosphere to heat up and I am in no position to challenge that consensus.

However, what Australia, which contributes about 1.2 percent of global emissions, should do about it should be a red-hot topic of discussion.

I often raise the completely nonsensical way global emissions are accounted for and the way Australia is wrongly held responsible for the emissions of others, broadly summed up as "designed by Europeans for Europeans."

However, the Albanese Government is making big policy decisions, the ramifications of which few understand. The Safeguard Mechanism compels Australian businesses emitting more than 100k tonne of CO₂ equivalent a year to reduce those emissions by 4.9 percent a year. If they cannot, they will be forced to buy *Carbon Credits*, price capped at \$75 per tonne, three times that of Julia Gillard's Carbon Tax. With credits in short supply, that cap is likely to become the standard price.



If a business cannot source enough credits, it will be fined a massive \$275 per tonne. Such an extreme outcome would be a huge incentive for an Australian business to move

off-shore.

I am very concerned the legislated 43 percent reduction on 2005 emissions will become a legal handbrake on new developments.

For instance, Australia badly needs to develop sovereign capacity in supply chains for key industries. A perfect example being our need for a major urea plant. The former Government backed a plant in WA converting our gas to urea in Australia. But here's the catch, while such a plant will reduce world emissions, it will increase Australian emissions.

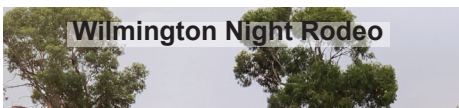
Like any new development the proposal has local detractors, and the hard 43 percent legislated target has now established a new pathway of objection through our courts.

Global warming is a global issue which can only be solved by a global response. Currently only about 12 percent of the world's population live in countries actually reducing emissions. The other 88 percent do not. We need to remain strongly committed to reducing emissions, but at the same time flexible and adaptive to allow for political and environmental imperatives beyond our control.

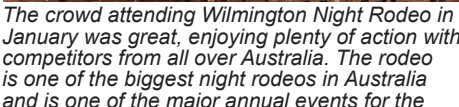
Kimba Medical Centre



The rebuilt Cr Leo J Schaefer Memorial Health Centre in Kimba will help secure a resident doctor and was enabled by a \$750k grant from the Radioactive Community Benefit Scheme. Upgrades to the centre, include seven consultation rooms, renovated waiting areas and a room for dentistry.



Rowan is with four of the five generations of Schaefers who have served their community, including three as council Chairman.



The crowd attending Wilmington Night Rodeo in January was great, enjoying plenty of action with competitors from all over Australia. The rodeo is one of the biggest night rodeos in Australia and is one of the major annual events for the town. The whole community is involved and the event has had tremendous success in the past 51 years. Congratulations to the Wilmington community in hosting another hugely successful event.



Rowan visited EP Railway Preservation Society which received \$3600 from the last BBRF Community Round to install aluminium ramps for wheelchair access to the railway museum. The museum includes exhibits and collectables from the Eyre Peninsula Railway. Rowan is with Peter Knife, Michael Sanders, Maggie Knife and Neil Lihou.

Minlaton Community Club



It was a delight to inspect new works at the Minlaton and District Community Sports Centre with Senator Anne Ruston. The facility will be a huge community asset featuring new multi-purpose changerooms. A special call-out for club President David Newbold and builder Anthony Bennett, who seems to have extracted maximum value for money. The club secured support from all levels of government.



Rowan spoke to a large crowd at the Port Lincoln Australia Day Awards in January affirming his pride in Australia Day. The city named joint winners of Young Citizen of the Year to Harry Stockham for his work with junior hockey players and fundraising for Pancreatic Cancer Research and Kye Poole for removing rubbish from the foreshore each week. Harry, above, with his proud parents Ian and Marianne, Member for Flinders Sam Telfer and City of Port Lincoln Mayor Diana Mislav.



The Queen's Jubilee Trees Program proved a hit with a number of communities across Grey including Arno Bay with the replanting and naming of Jubilee Walkway (the causeway). Rowan is with Caitlin Rehn, Estelle Rehn, Mike Turnbull, DC of Cleve Mayor Phil Cameron, Parker Wurfel and Rory Wurfel.

Robertstown General Store



Lehmann's General Store in Robertstown is an historical gem. With a decorative roofline proudly displaying its construction date of 1912, the store seems as if it's been transplanted out of history into the 21st Century. Rowan called in recently with Senator Anne Ruston. While general stores in similar towns have closed, the Lehmann family continues to provide wonderful service. They must be doing something right!



Rowan was in Tumby Bay for Australia Day where trailblazer Hannah Allen-Jordan was named Young Citizen of the Year. Hannah was also awarded this year's South Australian Young Citizen of the Year. At 21 Hannah was the youngest person to be elected to an EP Council and was also the District Council of Tumby Bay's first female Mayor, she is a passionate advocate for regional communities. Well deserved Hannah!



The end of year school presentation night season is always a huge challenge for Rowan who despite his best efforts, simply cannot attend 150 events in a couple of weeks. He was most pleased to be able to present his Rowan Ramsey School Community Award to Petrina Maher in Ceduna who has served 10 years on the school's Governing Council.

AUKUS Subs



The Labor Government deserves congratulations for the deal it has reached with the UK and the US to deliver a nuclear-powered submarine option for Australia.

The previous Government also deserves praise, as it was Scott Morrison and Peter Dutton's idea to pursue the options and their warm relationship with our allies that allowed them to get the deal on the table in the first place.

Yes, it was expensive to exit the French deal, and people have asked why we agreed to it in the first place. Simply, because at the time there was no possibility of accessing the British and American nuclear technologies and we needed a replacement submarine. We chose the best available.

However, the world changed, the Government persisted, and eventually an

Imperative the Government Continues the Dual Lanes

I am proud of the incredible investment surge in our regional road infrastructure across Grey in the last five or six years. More than \$1bn was allocated by the Federal Government in our electorate and has enabled once in a lifetime projects.

One of the biggest has been upgrades the length of the Augusta Highway, headlined by the Joy Baluch AM Bridge duplication at Port Augusta and bookended in the south by the Port Wakefield dual lanes/overpass. Next was starting the duplication project and I was delighted to help secure a \$260m package for the first 32km over the range to Lochiel.

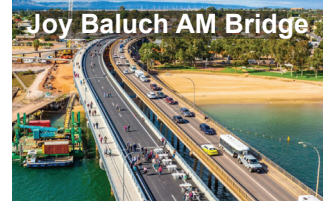
An additional \$8m was allocated for final plans for the section from Crystal Brook to Port Pirie (the busiest) and I understand that work has been completed. Thus far all works have been funded by Liberal Governments, but administrations have changed in both Adelaide and in Canberra and with funding commitments nearing an end, responsibility now rests entirely with the Labor Party.

Labor's October Budget foreshadowed \$400m for freight upgrades in SA to the Stuart, Dukes and Augusta Highways and I had hoped a share of this would keep works moving.

However, my confidence dived when I discovered a footnote designating a ten-year timeline! If that remains the case, it represents a complete abandonment of the dual lane project and should be condemned. Labor's second Federal Budget is imminent and I urge the Government to recognise the economic drivers of the state where the traffic loads are increasing, when those traffic loads begin to become an unacceptable risk to the public and dig deep and get on with the job.

This is a nation-building project and should be funded as such.

Port Wakefield Overpass



Joy Baluch AM Bridge.

Regional Bank Closures

Coalition Senator Matt Canavan has instigated a year-long study into the closure of regional and rural banks by the Senate's Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee. The inquiry will look into the economic and welfare impacts of bank closures on customers and regional communities.

South Australia has been hit hard by bank closures. At one time we had 228 rural and regional banks and we are now down to just 67. We have lost 25 banks from Grey in the last five or six years, with these closures causing considerable local disruption. Currently we are dealing with two recent bank closures in Grey, one in Coober Pedy, 800km from Adelaide, 500km from Port Augusta and 690km to Alice Springs.

There are few places as isolated, but sadly Westpac closed its local branch in February. Now, NAB is closing its Roxby Downs branch, the only bank in town.

This decision will create enormous difficulties as well. Despite NAB pausing a number of bank closures pending the results of the inquiry, Roxby Downs is not one of them and will close anyway. I have expressed my disappointment to them. I have also written to Westpac backing the District Council of Coober Pedy's call asking they re-instate the local branch while the inquiry proceeds. For the record, last year Westpac posted a profit of \$5.3bn and the NAB \$6.9bn. One would think they may be able to just keep their doors open in these incredibly isolated communities. Banks are commercial businesses and have commitments to their shareholders, but for large companies corporate image and customer relations are an important part of retaining "public licence." Retaining these branches, at least until this inquiry is complete would be smart practice.

Useful Links

The Regional Tech Hub is an excellent resource for advice and support for anyone experiencing communication issues. This is a free service funded by the Federal Government. Phone 1300 081 029 to access the service which is available Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm (AEST). The Community Grants Hub delivers simple, consistent and streamlined information around Government grants to the Australian community. People can subscribe for updates on the latest grant opportunities at www.communitygrants.gov.au/

Modern Farming Methods Deliver

That last harvest broke all state records comes as no surprise to those of us either involved in farming or living within a farming community. While we enthusiastically embrace new industries, agriculture remains by far the biggest industry in Grey and sustains most of our rural communities. The foundations of the season were laid with widespread rainfalls in late January and while in places they caused significant damage (including on our farm) the old adage, there is more money in mud than dust, held true. It was in the months leading up to seeding, where the incredible revolution in agriculture were apparent. Whereas once we would have repeatedly cultivated the soil to control weeds, that outcome was achieved with the use of modern, environmentally benign chemicals which

both preserve moisture and almost eliminate soil erosion. Things are rarely ever perfect, but despite a few seasonal challenges it all came together pretty well at harvest. Early rains challenged us, extended harvest, but most thankfully caused minimal damage to crop quality. Prices have been very strong, recognising that our windfall has been at the expense of Ukraine, one of the world's food-bowls, and the dreadful illegal Russian invasion. We should be proud of our agricultural industries. Every year on average Australian farmers grow more food and fibre, they grow better quality, and they grow it in a more environmentally friendly fashion. They are the best friends our land has.



You can take the boy out of the country but.....! Rowan was very pleased to get a chance in the driver's seat of a brand-new harvester in a record crop. He also joined Member for O'Connor Rick Wilson for an early harvest inspection of T-Port's Lucky Bay facility. In just their fourth year T-Ports received 800k tonnes on EP to be shipped this year.



It is so good to see country shows back in action and communities coming out in support. Rowan attended the Eudunda Show in November and caught up with Member for Frome Penny Pratt and local identities Ron and Judy Milde. There was an emergency services display, sideshows, face painting, live music, petting zoo and much more for all ages.



If you want to enjoy a great party, Rowan says look for the Filipino shows. He joined the team in Whyalla for Christmas dinner and enjoyed the competitive singing acts including at back Joel, Rose, Kirsten, Kean and Joel Jr Floria and front Loida Edwards, Linda Garcia and Carmela Hoffman.



The Rotary Club of Northern Yorke Peninsula recently hosted Senator Anne Ruston as guest speaker. Anne shared her story of growing up, establishing the successful Ruston Roses and her pathway in politics rising to be the Minister for Families and Social Services. She continues as the Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care.