



JULIAN LEESER MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BEROWRA

Dear Residents of the Berowra Electorate,

I am very pleased to say that this week, the Government's extension of the JobKeeper Program passed the Parliament. Around four million Australians will benefit from JobKeeper payments at the end of the September quarter. This important measure is helping cushion some of the major impact COVID-19 is having.

Alongside the COVID information in this newsletter, is information about **different supports that are available** for people seeking work, and those looking at developing new skills or starting a business. Many in our community will be in this position at the moment, and in the months ahead.

Also included is information about various things happening in our electorate, and an update regarding the last fortnight of Parliament.

I continue to be inspired and encouraged by the resilience of our community during this very difficult year.

Please feel welcome to share this newsletter with others who may be interested. I encourage you to follow my social media for up-to-date news too. Anyone who wants to be added to the newsletter distribution list should email julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au.

If ever my staff or I can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to phone my office on (02) 9980 1822 or send an email.

Kind regards,
Julian Leeser

Update following National Cabinet - Roadmap to Christmas

At yesterday's national cabinet meeting the Commonwealth, Territories and State Governments (except Western Australia), agreed in-principle to develop a new plan for Australia to reopen by Christmas, using a hotspot concept that will allow for easier movement between jurisdictions.

The definition of a hotspot, proposed by the Acting Chief Medical Officer is:

Metropolitan hotspot - 10 locally acquired cases per day as a rolling average over three days;

Rural or regional hotspot - 3 locally acquired cases per day as a rolling average over three days.

Western Australia has specific circumstances that mean it will not subscribe to the same timetable, but will continue to participate in discussions as the plans develop.

The National Cabinet also agreed to boost the capacity for international arrivals wherever possible, to allow more Australians to return home. All state and territories will work with the Commonwealth to increase the number of flights they permit to land.

The roadmap will be further developed in the coming weeks and National Cabinet will meet again on 18 September.

Prime Minister's statement following National Cabinet

Progress towards a COVID-19 vaccination

Australia is identifying and supporting world-leading research in a range of places, to accelerate the development and manufacturing of coronavirus vaccines. We are investing \$358 million in vaccines, therapeutics and COVID-19 medicines.

Australia is already among the best countries in the world at producing vaccines, putting us in a strong position to be able to roll out a coronavirus vaccine quickly and safely.

Clinical research trials are underway in 18 locations in Australia and the USA for one of the vaccines that is being developed. These trials are evaluating the safety and immune response of the vaccine.

Three other vaccine candidates have also begun clinical trials in Australia, including one being developed by the University of Queensland; one being developed by Flinders University and Adelaide company, Vaxine; and one being developed by international company Clover Biopharmaceuticals.

The country's most experienced scientists, biotech and pharmaceutical experts have been brought together to provide advice on acquiring a portfolio of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccinations through the *COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments for Australia – Science and Industry Technical Advisory Group*.

Professor Brendan Murphy, Secretary of the Department of Health, who has a leading role in managing the Government's pandemic response, leads the group.

The independent Therapeutic Goods Administration will apply rigorous and robust processes in the approval of any COVID-19 vaccine before it is accessible to Australians.

[More information](#)

Information about finding a job and building skills

This is a very difficult time for many people who are facing unexpected job losses or the potential of business closures in the months ahead.

The Morrison Government has a range of initiatives in place to assist people in finding work and developing new skills or following new career paths.

HELP TO FIND A JOB

Jobs Hub - The Jobs Hub is a new platform to connect people looking for work with businesses who are hiring. To find what is available in your area visit dese.gov.au/covid-19/jobs-hub.

Harvest Trail Services - If you are looking for seasonal work in the harvest industries a Harvest Trail Service Provider can connect you to employers, growers and farmers needing seasonal workers. For more information visit jobsearch.gov.au/harvest or call the Harvest Trail Information Service on 1800 062 332.

Jobactive - Jobactive is the Government's national employment service, with both an online service and a national network of private and community organisation operating in approximately 1,700 locations across Australia. Jobactive providers can help you write a résumé, look for work, prepare for interviews, get skills that local employers need, and find and keep a job. For more information about jobactive helping you find work visit employment.gov.au/i-want-job.

Youth Jobs PaTH - The youth jobs PaTH program helps young people aged 15 to 24 years to get the right skills and experience to ready them for a job. PaTH has three elements:

- Prepare—receive government funded training to develop your work skills.
- Trial— participate in a voluntary internship for 4–12 weeks to get the experience and skills you need.

- Hire—if your employer hires you in an ongoing job, they may be able to receive a Youth Bonus wage subsidy of up to \$10,000.

For more information on PaTH visit www.jobactive.gov.au/Path.

STARTING A BUSINESS

New Business Assistance with NEIS - If you are not in employment, education or training and are interested in running your own business, you may be eligible for New Business Assistance with NEIS. For more information visit employment.gov.au/self-employment-new-business-assistance-neis.

Entrepreneurship Facilitators - Entrepreneurship Facilitators provide practical assistance to support and encourage you to start a business as a way to create your own job. For more information visit employment.gov.au/entrepreneurship-facilitators.

SelfStart - SelfStart supports you through the first stages of starting your own business. From planning, validating their idea, finding local support, through to perfecting your pitch. For more information, visit <https://jobsearch.gov.au/selfstart>.

SUPPORT FOR MATURE AGE JOB SEEKERS

Skills Checkpoint for Older Workers and Skills and Training Incentive - Skills Checkpoint for Older Workers offer career advice and assessment for older workers on transitioning to new roles within their current industry or finding pathways to a new career, including referrals to relevant education and training options. For more information visit employment.gov.au/skillscheckpointprogram.

Skills and Training Incentive - The Skills and Training incentive provides up to \$2,200 to help older workers build skills to remain in the workforce longer. For more information visit employment.gov.au/skills-and-training-incentive.

Career Transition Assistance - The Career Transition Assistance program helps people aged 45 years and older to increase their employability and become more competitive in the local labour market.

Participants are provided with practical assistance to build the skills employers are looking for by:

- Updating and tailoring job applications to apply for a range of different jobs.
- Identifying their transferable skills and better targeting their job search to local industries and available jobs.
- Building confidence and knowledge with the use of everyday technology.
- learn resilience strategies and improve confidence.

For more information visit www.dese.gov.au/career-transition-assistance.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Job Outlook and Skills Match Tool - Job Outlook makes it easy to find and understand career information. Use the career profiles on Job Outlook to learn about the future outlook, pay, main tasks, and physical and other demands of careers that interest you. For more information visit Joboutlook.gov.au.

Australian Jobs - The Australian Jobs publication is an easy to follow guide to the Australian labour market. For more information visit <https://www.employment.gov.au/australian-jobs-publication>.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The national vocational education and training (VET) system ensures Australians can get the skills they need to succeed in their careers. For more information on VET opportunities, including courses and training providers, visit www.myskills.gov.au.

JobTrainer Fund - The JobTrainer Fund will provide up to 340,000 free or low fee training places, for job seekers and school leavers in areas of identified skills need. Course details and information on how to access training will be available on www.myskills.gov.au.

National Careers Institute - The National Careers Institute provides up-to-date career information to help you make effective decisions about your learning, training and work pathways, at all ages and stages of your career, visit www.nci.dese.gov.au.

Skills for Education and Employment Program - The Skills for Education and Employment Program can help you improve your reading, writing and maths skills to help you find a job. It is for people who are unemployed and registered as a job seeker with Services Australia. You can get up to 650 hours of free training doing full-time or part-time hours, face-to-face or distance training. For more information visit www.employment.gov.au/skills-education-and-employment.

Foundation Skills for Your Future Program - The Foundation Skills program helps you to improve your oral communication, reading, writing, maths and digital skills. It is for people in employment or anyone who is recently unemployed. For further information visit www.employment.gov.au/foundation-skills-your-future-program.

Australian Apprenticeship Support Network - The Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN) helps apprentices, trainees and their employers connect to government support services. If you are thinking about starting an apprenticeship or traineeship talk to an AASN who will:

- Explain how apprenticeships and traineeships work, roles and responsibilities.
- Help you find an employer and registered training organisation to complete training.

- Help manage a training contract between you and your employer.
- Assess your eligibility for a Trade Support Loan and other payments and process these for you.
- Provide advice and support throughout your apprenticeship or traineeship.

For more information and to find your local AASN provider visit

www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

Financial assistance can help Australian apprentices with the costs of doing an apprenticeship or traineeship. You may be eligible for two payments.

- The Additional Identified Skills Shortage payment (AISS)
- The Living Away from Home Allowance (LAFHA).

The AISS payment encourages new workers, school leavers and young people to become an apprentice in jobs where there are skill shortages. The LAFHA is available in the first three years of your apprenticeship if you have to move away from your parent's or guardian's home in order to take up or remain in an apprenticeship. For more information visit www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.

Trade Support Loans

If you are an Australian apprentice or trainee working in an identified skills need area, you may be eligible for a Trade Support Loan (TSL) to help cover the costs of living and learning. For further information visit www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.

NSW Government VET program

The NSW governments also provides a training subsidies and support services. For more information visit: Smart and Skilled: www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au

Telecommunications and Emergencies - Update

As you are probably aware, over the last few months I have been putting pressure on Telstra to improve the service they deliver in our electorate. Telstra have committed to a number of improvements to their infrastructure in the area, but I remain concerned that more substantial improvements are needed.

Reliable telecommunications services are essential for homes and businesses. People living in the Sydney area should be able to rely on reliable internet and telephone lines. This is particularly important in emergency situations.

Given this, I am continuing to advocate for more investment in mobile phone towers and other telecommunications in our area.

Over the past couple of months I have:

- Made a Submission to the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements outlining the significant risks posed by unreliable mobile coverage;
- Made a Submission to the Commonwealth Treasury in advance of the next Budget being delivered, requesting more funding for telecommunications in our electorate; and
- Made a Submission to the current review of the Mobile Black Spot program, requesting that the program service disaster-prone outer metropolitan areas, like the Berowra electorate.

In each case, I am advocating for better telecommunications infrastructure to be delivered.

Online mental health support for small business

Being a small-business owner comes with a unique set of pressures and responsibilities. Isolation, financial stress and workload pressure during COVID-19 are having an enormous impact on these businesses owners.

The Morrison Government has invested an additional \$3.1 million to expand mental health and well-being services available through the 'Ahead for Business' initiative, to ensure small business owners and their staff can access support and resources.

The platform is a digital hub is designed to support small business owners in every setting and empower them to prioritise their mental health and well-being.

For more information click the button below.

www.aheadforbusiness.org.au

'Getting a Grip' Podcast - Episode with Dr Julian Gold

Last week I introduced my new podcast to you. Thank you for the feedback and interest!

I want to particularly draw your attention to the interview with Julian Gold. He was the lead epidemiologist during the AIDS pandemic in Australia. He was the Brendan Murphy of his time, and I remember watching him on the news during those days when we didn't know

very much at all about what AIDS was, or how to treat it.

His interview reminds us that pandemics are not new, and what today seems mysterious and unknown, will one day be much more well-understood and treatable than it is today. He also explains that resolving an epidemic is a long road and gives us a realistic sense of the need to adjust to these realities. He says, "There are probably 800 different coronaviruses and at the moment we have only been exposed to three—SARS and MERS and COVID19. Humans have no natural immunity to those. There will be other epidemics."

The point of this is not to frighten us, but to remind us that life must go on, in the midst of the challenges we face.

You can listen to my interview with Julian Gold as well as other podcasts by clicking below.

[Listen to my interview with Julian Gold and my other podcasts](#)

UPDATES FROM THE BEROWRA ELECTORATE

Turning the sod on the new Greenway Park Clubhouse

Turning the sod is always a momentous occasion, but particularly for the new Greenway Park Clubhouse, a federally funded project that has brought together so many codes to make a fantastic community development come to life.

The codes involved in the development of the new clubhouse include West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club, Pennant Hills Demons AFL Club, Pennant Hills Demons Junior AFL Club, Westbrook Junior AFL Club, Cherrybrook Senior Athletics, Greenway Giants, Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook Rugby League Club and Cherrybrook United Netball Club.



Volunteer Grants now open for application

The Centre for Volunteering, on behalf of the Australian Government, is offering grants of between \$1,000 to \$5,000 to volunteer involving organisations to help support the inclusion of vulnerable people through volunteering.

Volunteer based organisations can use these grants to help support the efforts of NSW's volunteers. The grants provide small amounts that organisations and community groups can use for the following items/activities:

- Small equipment items
- Transport costs of volunteers with a disability
- Fuel costs incurred by volunteers
- Training for volunteers
- Background screening checks of volunteers
- Documentation requirements
- Post COVID-19 re-engagement activities for volunteers
- Adapting practices to support volunteers safety in relation to COVID-19



Please visit The Centre's website to apply for the grants:

<https://www.volunteering.com.au/supplementary-volunteer-grants/>

Applications close on Sunday, 20 September, 2020.

My Annual Christmas Card Competition

I have now launched my annual Christmas card photography competition!

Christmas is still a little while away, however I wanted to give you plenty of time to get your creative juices flowing and your photos submitted!!

This year is going to be a bit different to usual. I am looking for a picture that best captures the Berowra electorate's incredible experiences, places and people, however this year creatively capturing:

'something about our community that you appreciate more than ever, in the context of coronavirus'

So I invite all those who love and enjoy the Berowra electorate to show off your creativity and photographic talent by sharing your favourite Berowra images.

The winning entry will be used as the front cover of my Christmas card with credit to the photographer. We will also publish a selection of the entries on my Facebook and Instagram pages.

To enter, post a photo of your favourite Berowra moment on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag and tag me in the post (Facebook @JulianLeeserMP Instagram @julianleeser Twitter @JulianLeeser).

You can also enter by emailing the photo to julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au

Competition closes Friday 28 September 2020.

Tell your family and friends, get out there and get snapping! 📷 🌞 🌲

Photo credit: Julie Attwood (2019 Winner)



UPDATES FROM PARLIAMENT

During the past sitting fortnight, a number of significant tasks were achieved:

- We extended the JobKeeper package.
- We crossed the first major hurdle in passing laws to improve recycling and waste in Australia. This will force us to deal with the waste we create and not ship the problem elsewhere.
- We introduced legislation to improve the leave entitlements for parents dealing with the trauma of stillbirths, infant deaths and premature births
- We introduced legislation to ensure that state and territory governments do not compromise national interests, in their dealings with foreign governments.
- We introduced legislation to ensure high-risk convicted terrorists will face tighter controls when they are released from prison.

I also had the opportunity to speak about some great members of our community who recently passed away - Ken Shadie and Harry Anderson.

You can see my speeches about both men, below.



Speaking about Ken Shadie in Parliament



Speaking about Harry Anderson in Parliament