

100% Independent

DECEMBER 2022

THE CLARK INDEPENDENT

ANDREW WILKIE - YOUR INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MP



Improving your cyber security

The use of the terms data breach and hack have become increasingly common recently. A data breach is when data is inadvertently shared or lost, while a hack is when data is maliciously accessed by an unauthorised person.

Hackers often hold stolen data to ransom before returning it. However hackers do not always return data, even if the ransom is paid, instead selling it to other parties who might use the data maliciously. This can affect anyone who has provided personal information, as well as those responsible for collecting and storing it. The recent Optus and Medibank hacks have affected millions of Australians and are a wake up call to us all.

Recently the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Signals Directorate announced they would initiate a joint standing operation to investigate, target and disrupt cyber criminal syndicates. The Federal Government has also introduced legislation to increase penalties for data breaches to a minimum of \$50 million for organisations that experience data breaches, putting the onus on them to better protect the data of their customers.

A wealth of additional information is available at www.cyber.gov.au and is worth a look.

Tips to protect yourself

- ✓ Never click on links in emails or text messages that are from an unknown source
- ✓ Use unique and strong passwords and change them regularly
- ✓ Use multifactor authentication if possible
- ✓ Ensure you have anti-virus software on all devices
- ✓ Check account details and security settings
- ✓ Be aware of the personal data you are sharing

Wins for gambling reform

In an Australian first, the Tasmanian Government has announced it will introduce a mandatory pre-commitment system for all poker machine players in the state by December 2024.

The broad outline of the system is commendable and includes a number of measures. For instance, the system will be mandatory and not opt-in, all players must have a card, and the annual maximum loss can only be increased by application which includes an assessment on whether or not the gambler can afford to lose more. Mandatory pre-commitment requires gamblers to set limits before they start to gamble, with the Tasmanian Government setting the default limits at \$100 per day, \$500 per month and \$5000 per year.

The New South Wales Crime Commission has also recommended that a mandatory cashless poker machine system be introduced after finding more than \$1 billion of dirty money is put through poker machines annually in that state.

The Federal Government's changes to gambling advertising to protect people are welcome. Stronger and varied messaging, and more effective presentation, for example bigger print on screens and slower and more deliberate voiceovers, do all have some value. Doing away with the 'gamble responsibly' message is appropriate because the problems in the online and sports betting industry are more about the predatory behaviour of that industry than the behaviour of gamblers.

But there are still many bigger reforms that remain unaddressed. For example, all Australian gambling companies need to be linked in real time so daily limits are effectively enforced. TV advertising needs to be reined in, if allowed at all. And the Government would be well advised to support my current private member's bill which would prevent gambling companies benefitting from the proceeds of crime.



Finally a federal integrity agency!



The Australian community has been calling for a strong, independent federal integrity agency for years and the establishment of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) is a wonderful development. As this newsletter goes to print, the enabling legislation has passed the House of Representatives and is with the Senate for their consideration. By the time you get the newsletter the NACC Bill should have passed into law.

The NACC will be independent of government, take referrals from anyone, look at corruption retrospectively and be empowered to

investigate third parties. Funding was contained in the recent Budget and the NACC is expected to be operating sometime in 2023. It's a huge win for the independents and minor parties who have been campaigning for such an agency for many years.

However the NACC as it stands is deficient in some aspects and Andrew will continue to push for improvements. For example, the threshold for public hearings is too high and the whistleblower protection provisions are too weak.

While the NACC is a crucial element of integrity reform, it is important to acknowledge that it will not singlehandedly stop corruption. To that end, Andrew believes Australia must also reform our political donations framework, legislate truth in political advertising laws, enhance media freedom provisions and completely overhaul the country's whistleblower protection laws. Only then will Australians be able to have confidence in government officials and the political process.

UTAS move opposed by community

The community has had its say, with an overwhelmingly 74.38 per cent voting no in the elector poll on the University of Tasmania campus move into the CBD.

Andrew was originally attracted to the idea of a city campus and the vibrancy it would bring to the CBD. But he voted no because it is clear many community concerns have not been addressed. For such a big project to have any chance of success, it has to be done right. For instance, no work should have been done, and no CBD properties



purchased, until all community concerns had been discovered, explored and addressed. Every stage of the process, especially early on, should have been consultative, robust and transparent.

But instead big chunks of the CBD were bought up, raising the question of whether or not the move was already a done deal.

Clearly UTAS must go back to the drawing board. And the State Government must intervene in the move, as UTAS was established under an Act of Parliament and the Sandy Bay campus was gifted to the University by the state. Disappointingly though, most state parliamentarians continue to run a million miles from the controversy.

The recent Federal Budget

The Federal Budget was delivered in October and it was more compassionate than we've seen during the previous LNP governments' budgets. Highlights include improved access to early childhood education, expanded paid parental leave, reduced costs for medicines, greater spending on TAFE and big investments in clean energy infrastructure.

However, these headline reforms mask many problems. For instance, the medical profession doubts the capacity exists to staff the Urgent Care Clinics. The claimed increase for funding for mental health is nonsense because it "will be largely met from within the existing resourcing of the Department of Health and Aged Care." The increased funding for the tertiary sector is a fraction of what's needed to reverse the cuts over the last decade. There's no real increase to Centrelink payments. And funding for the environment remains woeful.

Local funding wins

- ✓ \$60m for Hobart Airport
- ✓ \$50m for Nyrstar
- ✓ \$20m for Derwent River ferries and terminals
- ✓ \$1.5m for 10 playgrounds in Glenorchy
- ✓ \$500k for the Derwent Estuary Program
- ✓ \$260k for the Hobart Community Shed
- ✓ \$100k for the Multicultural Council of Tasmania Multicultural Hub
- ✓ \$37.5k for the Australian Italian Culture and Community Centre

Health crisis

Andrew recently had the following to say in Federal Parliament on Tasmania's failing health system.

How long do Tasmanians have to put up with a health system that is consistently failing to deliver on so many different fronts?

Barely a day goes by without constituents relating health horror stories, such as that of a 90-year-old man who spent three and a half hours waiting in agony on the floor for an ambulance to arrive to triage his broken leg and transport him to hospital. His pain and distress grew exponentially as time wore on, with a few Panamax the only relief available until paramedics arrived.

Then there's the parents of a three-year-old boy with autism who had to move interstate at a moment's notice to access the care he needs because it's just not available in Tasmania. They couldn't afford to wait up to 18 months to see an allied health professional as early intervention is crucial. "The entire industry is in crisis mode," says the child's mother, who was not only forced to leave behind a senior job in the healthcare sector but also the family's entire support network.

And what advice do you suggest we give to the growing number of constituents whose GP has retired and they can't find another local practice to take them on, let alone one that bulk bills? As a result, many delay seeing a doctor until their condition worsens and lands them in the already overloaded emergency departments.



Meanwhile, those healthcare workers at the coalface have struggled through difficult conditions for so long that their goodwill is exhausted. Facing inevitable burn-out, they too are forced to move to another state where both the conditions and the pay are so much better.

While the rollout of Medicare Urgent Care Clinics and reforms to the GP sector are clearly welcome, they are just one part of the puzzle. And with so many GPs already leaving the sector and graduates choosing other specialties well ahead of general practice, just who is going to staff these Urgent Care Clinics?

What we have here is a system that clearly needs rebuilding from the ground up. Without serious reforms in the primary healthcare system, including a long-overdue increase in the Medicare rebate, the situation is only going to get worse.

Kickoff for North Chigwell and KGV

It's been a long time coming, but works to upgrade the North Chigwell Soccer Hub and KGV Football Park have finally commenced. Andrew secured \$12.8 million in Federal Government funds for the two venues in 2019, but the projects were plagued by endless delays, many of which were avoidable.

Now that the first sod has been turned, the community will start to see the benefits as the grounds transform into state-of-the-art facilities. This will include new pitches, with a new synthetic one at KGV, better lighting and much improved changerooms to replace the existing outdated ones.



Andrew joined Football Tasmania Chief Executive Officer Matt Bulkeley and Glenorchy City Mayor Bec Thomas at North Chigwell Oval as works commenced.

Community notice board

Certificate of Appreciation

Are you or one of your family members a veteran? Certificates of Appreciation are available to all eligible veterans who served overseas in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations from World War II on, or on the home front during World War II. They are a way of expressing the nation's gratitude for those who served.



Please contact my office.

Saddle up for RDA

Do you like horses? Are you interested in helping children and adults with a disability? Are you reasonably fit? Then contact Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) and find out how you can get involved and make a difference by becoming a volunteer. You might also consider a State Board or Centre Committee position.

RDA is a not-for-profit charity that provides equine-related programs to people with a disability and special needs.

To find out more contact Claudia Nevah on 0429 943 247 or at coaching@rdatas.org.au



Are you eligible for a discount?

A reminder that you may be eligible for a wide range of discounts on the cost of government services such as housing, electricity, health, land tax and many other things. The Tasmanian Government offers these discounts and concessions to ease cost of living pressures and make it easier for all members of the Tasmanian community to access essential services.

To be eligible to access discounts and concessions you need to hold a Commonwealth or state concession card. But some discounts and concessions are available even if you don't have a card.

To find out more and see what discounts and concessions you may be able to receive visit www.concessions.tas.gov.au

Want to get in touch with Andrew?

- Drop into the office at 188 Collins Street Hobart or post a letter to GPO Box 32 Hobart 7001
- Phone 6234 5255 or 6234 5861
- Email andrew.wilkie.mp@aph.gov.au
- Ask for a meeting

www.andrewwilkie.org

Volunteer on the airwaves

Edge Radio 99.3FM is your youth community radio station in Hobart.

They are volunteer run and are always looking for more volunteers in a variety of roles.



If you are interested in presenting a show, music, independent media or volunteering behind the scenes visit www.edgeradio.org.au/get-involved/volunteer/

Tune in anytime on 99.3fm or edgeradio.org.au

Supporting Hobart's international youth

The Australian International Youth Association (AIYA) is a volunteer based not-for-profit organisation founded on encouraging the participation of international youth in social and community activities. AIYA has a focus on general communication, English as a second language and understanding workplace culture in Australia.

It seeks to prepare young immigrants for work in Australia while encouraging diversity and harmony within the broader community.

AIYA conducts important work in building a sense

of community for international youths, providing opportunities for volunteers to learn new skills and strengthen social networks by organising and participating in many successful events throughout the year.

To find out more visit www.theaiya.org



Defence and Veterans' Workshop

The Defence and Veterans' Workshop was originally conceived over 30 years ago as a means by which Vietnam War veterans with mental health issues could engage in a therapeutic activity. Since then the Workshop has evolved and now includes veterans from all sorts of backgrounds facing a range of challenges. It provides an alternative by providing veterans with a venue where they can improve their health and wellbeing by engaging in therapeutic woodworking activities in a relaxed, supportive and safe environment. The Workshop is located at Loyd Road Dowsing Point behind the Derwent Army Barracks and is open to current or ex-Australian Defence Force members including reservists.

To find out more email dfvtow@outlook.com



Printed on 100% Australian-made environmentally-responsible paper
Authorised by Andrew Wilkie MP 188 Collins Street Hobart 7000
Printed by Mercury Walch 5 Bowen Road Moonah 7009