

A Strong Voice for Bendigo



Lisa Chesters MP, Federal Member for Bendigo

BIG INCREASE IN GP BULK BILLED VISITS

GP Bulk billing rates are up by 8% across the Bendigo Electorate

Central Victoria is reaping the rewards of the Federal Labor Government's record investments into Medicare, as new data shows bulk billing for GP appointments has increased by 8% in the Bendigo electorate since November 1st 2023.

This is great news!

On November 1st last year, the Government tripled the bulk billing incentive GPs are paid if they do not charge a gap fee for children and Commonwealth concession card holders.

Bulk billing is the beating heart of Medicare, and the investment we have made into bulk billing has provided real cost-of-living relief to parents, pensioners and healthcare card holders.

Our Government is committed to rebuilding Medicare and strengthening the healthcare system for all Australians.



Boost to Services Australia staff means shorter wait times for Bendigo locals

In March, I welcomed Minister for NDIS and Government Services Bill Shorten to the electorate to announce an additional eleven full time positions for our local Services Australia office (formally known as Centrelink).



An extra 3,000 directly employed staff will be added to the department across the country, which will go a long way towards minimising frustrating wait times.

The Federal Labor Government understands your time is precious and is committed to restoring Services Australia, after years of neglect under the former Liberal government.

The announcement means less time spent on hold as more properly trained and directly employed staff will be available to answer your calls.

Bendigo locals who rely on social safety net payments and other supports such as childcare subsidies, will have an easier time accessing support when they need to contact Services Australia.

Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain clinic

Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ged Kearney MP, visited Bendigo on International Women's Day to officially open Bendigo's first specialised endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic.

This is one of the 22 Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinics that have opened across Australia under the Federal Labor Government, and the first in regional Victoria.

Endometriosis affects at least 1 in every 9 Australian women, and women often suffer for years before getting a diagnosis. The Federal Labor Government cares about women's health and recognises pelvic pain and endometriosis as serious and debilitating health conditions.

This clinic will help countless Central Victorian women get the healthcare they need. Head to bchs.com.au for more information.



Labor's Fairer Tax Cuts

Helping you earn more and keep more of what you earn

From July 1st, every taxpayer in the Bendigo electorate will pay less tax. The Federal Labor Government's better plan for tax cuts will see every taxpayer get a tax cut.

I know that for many local workers it's tough to make ends meet right now. That's why we're delivering more help for working families.

An estimated 58,000 taxpayers in the Bendigo electorate are better off under Labor's tax cuts, compared to the original plan legislated 5 years ago by the former Liberal Government.

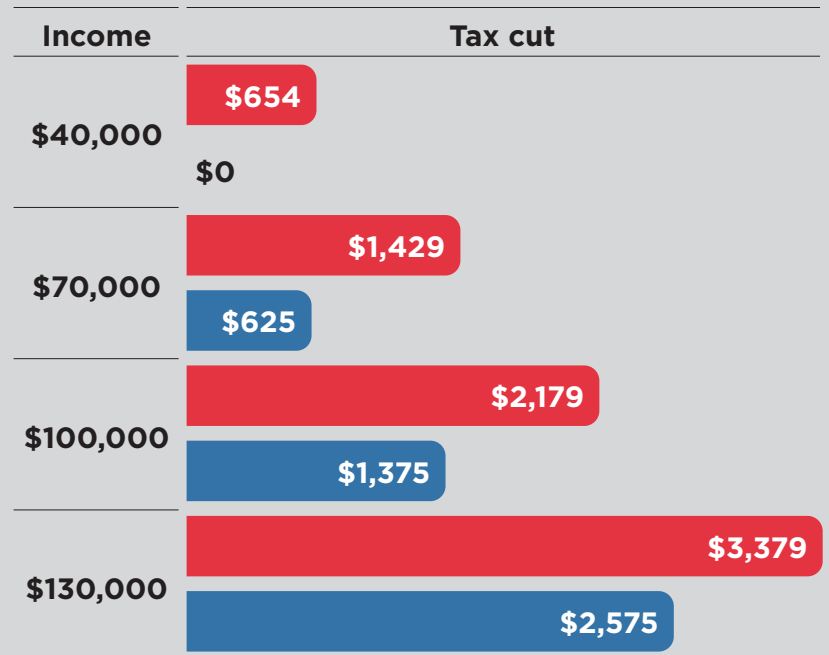


Under Labor, every taxpayer will pay less tax

LABOR
TAX CUTS

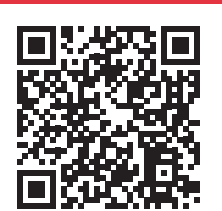
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LIBERAL
TAX CUTS



The Federal Labor Government wants Australians to earn more and keep more of what they earn.

To find out how much you will benefit from Labor's tax cuts, use the calculator on the Treasury website: scan the code below or go to treasury.gov.au/tax-cuts/calculator



A **nurse** earning \$75,000 will receive a tax cut of \$1,554



A **teacher** earning \$80,000 will receive a tax cut of \$1,679



A **truck driver** earning \$95,000 will receive a tax cut of \$2,054



A **hospitality worker** earning \$45,000 will receive a tax cut of \$804

Saluting Their Service grants available



Since becoming the Federal Member for Bendigo, I have been honoured to attend countless local commemorative events organised by local RSLs, Veterans groups, health and age care facilities, schools, community, and sporting organisations.

These events play an important role in recognising the service and sacrifice of Australian service personnel in war, conflict and peacekeeping operations.

The Saluting Their Service (STS) Commemorative Grants Program is designed to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel and their families.

There are 2 categories of grants available under the program:

1. Community Grants (STS-CG)

Grants to a maximum of \$10,000 are available for local, community-based projects and activities

2. Major Grants (STS-MG)

Grants between \$10,001 and \$150,000 are available for major commemorative projects and activities that are significant from a national, state, territory and/or broader regional perspective.

To find out if you meet the criteria, or to apply for a grant, visit grants.gov.au

Festival Fun

All year round, our region boasts a full calendar of festivals that showcase the best talents of our region and celebrate local communities.








There is something for everyone. Our diversity is our strength, and our local festivals are a great demonstration of this.

I am also the proud sponsor of many of our local festivals including the Taradale Mineral Springs Festival, Bendigo PRIDE, Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival, and Zinda.

I know firsthand the passion and commitment of festival committee members. I'd like to give a big shout out to all our festival committees and volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure their festival is a success.



Get in touch

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