



TUGGERANONG  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

# VALLEY VOICE

## Petition supports public servants in Tuggeranong



L to R: Hyperdome Manager, Jodie Marques, Federal Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann MP, TCC President, Nick Tsoulias and TCC Treasurer, Frank Vrins

Federal Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann, will introduce a petition into parliament calling for the retention of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in Tuggeranong.

The department has announced it is looking for new space for its national office as part of a plan to consolidate more than 2700 staff into one or two buildings. It says it will consider remaining in Tuggeranong or moving to Woden.

The Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC), Hyperdome shopping centre and Communities@Work are collecting signatures on the petition calling for the federal government to

*"locate in Tuggeranong CBD the required 40,000 to 42,000 square metres of space that is needed to house the newly consolidated Commonwealth Government Department of Families, Housing and Indigenous Affairs."* The petition calls on the government to *"maintain and improve"* existing public service jobs in Tuggeranong.

Ms Brodtmann said she supports the petition and has spoken to the secretary about keeping the department in the town centre, and will approach the relevant ministers to discuss the issue.

"I am making the petition available for people to sign on my website and

I will present it in Parliament during the next sitting," Ms Brodtmann told the Canberra Times.

"There's a number of different positions that are attached to the department, and it's very important that you have jobs in various parts of Canberra so you keep each pocket of Canberra alive and keep the economy alive, and it's a particularly important part of Tuggeranong," she told journalists while launching the petition.

***"small businesses in Tuggeranong rely on the public service for their day to day trade"***

The TCC is concerned if FaHCSIA workers are relocated it will have a negative impact on businesses in the Town Centre.

TCC President, Nick Tsoulias, said a lot of the small businesses in Tuggeranong rely on the public service for their day to day trade and base their business decisions on this trade.

Lynne Harwood, chief executive of Communities@Work, said it would do great harm to an area already disadvantaged if the department was relocated away from Tuggeranong.

*Continued on page 2*

Petition supports public servants In Tuggeranong	1/2
Bigger Assembly	2
Brodthmann welcomes high speed rail report	3
Bag ban, "a waste if taxpayers money" - Seselja	3
Wood heater emissions, we can do better says TCC	4
Mother of the year	4
"Footsteps" centenary project kicks off	5
Immunisation rates low	5
News in Brief	6
Mayor asked to explain	6
Road signs update	6
Next TCC meeting	7
Don't Forget	7

# Bigger Assembly

An independent review into the size of the Australian Capital Territory's local Government Assembly has recommended an increase in the number of members from 17 to 25, representing five electorates with five members each, from 2016.

The report, prepared by an Expert Reference Group (ERG), also recommended a further increase in the size of the Assembly to 35 members in either 2020 or 2024.

The review was commissioned by the ACT Government in December 2012 with the ERG comprising ACT Electoral Commissioner, Phil Green (chair); Anne Cahill Lambert; Emeritus Professor Meredith Edwards; John Hindmarsh; and Louise Taylor.

Its report noted that if the Assembly did not accept an increase to 25 members, the ERG supported an increase to 27 members in 2016, consisting of three electorates each returning nine members.

"If the Assembly does not accept an increase to 35 members in 2020, the ERG supports an increase to 35 members at the 2024 election," the ERG report says.

"The ERG understands that the electorate may need a longer transition period for such a change."

ACT Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher, welcomed the recommendations, saying that when compared with other representative Parliaments in Australia and overseas the ACT Legislative Assembly was much smaller.

"The size of the Assembly has not changed since the first ACT election in 1989 and since then the number of enrolled voters has grown from 169,500 to 257,190," she said.

"This means the ratio of members to electors has changed from about one per 10,000 in 1989 to one per 15,130 currently, a much higher ratio than anywhere else in Australia."

She said Federal legislation now enabled the Assembly to change its size, provided the change had the support of two thirds of the members.

"This review is a crucial next step to ensure Canberrans receive adequate and proportional representation to the size of our city's population growth," Ms Gallagher said.

*Source: Public Sector News*

*From page 1*

"To take away a workforce of that size from an area, you're also taking away the buying power and the spending power of the area, so it's not just about the immediate jobs, it's about the whole impact that would have," she told the Canberra Times.

Hyperdome centre manager, Jodie Marques, said Tuggeranong was experiencing stagnant population growth and a decline in public service jobs in the town centre could see existing residents leave the area.

She told the Canberra Times the Hyperdome had good business from department employees and she expected strong support for the petition when she distributed it within the centre and to other local businesses.

To add you name to the petition, [click here](#).

## Tuggeranong Community Council acknowledges its supporters.

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# Brodtmann welcomes high speed rail report



High speed rail could carry 84 million passengers per year on Australia's east coast.

Federal Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann, has welcomed the final report into High Speed Rail. Ms Brodtmann said the landmark study fulfils a key 2010 election commitment, and reflects Labor's vision and determination to move Australia and its economy towards a low carbon, high productivity and even more prosperous future.

"High Speed Rail (HSR) connecting Canberra with Melbourne, Sydney and on to Brisbane has the potential to be a game-changer, transforming the way Canberrans live, work and take holidays, Ms Brodtmann said.

"It also has the capacity to ease congestion on our roads as well as provide a new foundation for a low carbon, high productivity economy," she added.

"Already this technology is being rolled out across the globe with clear economic, productivity, lifestyle and environmental benefits," she said.

The report was prepared for the Federal Government by a consortium led by AECOM and comprising Grimshaw Architects, KPMG, Sinclair

Knight Merz, Acil Tasman, Booz & Co and Hyder. It identifies a potential route for HSR between Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane. It estimates the costs and benefits of HSR, and investigates a raft of issues including construction, patronage, environmental, and urban and regional development.

The study concludes that once fully operational, HSR could carry 84 million passengers each year, with express journey times of just 64 minutes between Sydney and Canberra.

Ms Brodtmann said such a network has the potential to deliver a net economic benefit and generate sufficient revenue to cover its operating and asset renewal costs.

"But equally, HSR would be a monumental endeavour, with very real technical, logistical and financial challenges. That's why we must take a deliberate, thoughtful approach and this report provides a comprehensive analysis on which an informed public debate is now possible.

The Federal Government is initiating a comprehensive program of public consultation and debate on the role HSR could play in Australia's transport future. It is inviting feedback and views on the report and its findings from all interested parties by 30 June 2013. The full report and feedback forms are available at: [www.infrastructure.gov.au/hsr](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/hsr)

Source: Media Release

## Bag ban "a waste of taxpayers money" - Seselja

Shadow Minister for Cost of Living and Member for Brindabella, Zed Seselja, has accused the Government of wasting taxpayers' money to ensure shops are complying with the plastic bag ban.

Mr. Seselja said the Government has spent \$61,000 inspecting 2249 premises for compliance of the plastic shopping bag ban. He claims inspectors have been targeting small local businesses.

He said the true cost of enforcing the ban was revealed in a question taken on notice during annual reports hearings.

"The ACT Labor Government has wasted taxpayers' money enforcing a ban that they still can't prove has any benefit," said Mr. Seselja.

"I am frustrated that the ACT Government focused their inspections primarily on small businesses. They have targeted butchers, delicatessens, newsagencies and small local supermarkets," he said.

"This ban continues to cause inconvenience for small businesses and shoppers with little or no environmental gain," he claimed.

"The small businesses that are not compliant risk a fine of up to \$27,500, which is wildly out of kilter with the 'offence' or the real needs of the community," Mr. Seselja concluded.

Source: Media Release



# Wood heater emissions, we can do better says TCC



*According to the ACT Government wood heaters are the largest source of air pollution in Canberra.*

The Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) welcomes industry efforts to reduce wood smoke pollution, but believes we can do better.

The TCC was commenting on the eve of a Senate inquiry into the impact of air quality on health and media reports the wood heating industry proposes to change the national emissions standard for wood heaters reducing the particulate matter per kilogram of wood burnt, from 4 grams to 2.5 grams.

The TCC said it welcomed the announcement but believes we can do better. It said technological advances had made wood heaters much cleaner and more efficient and it was concerned a new national standard of 2.5 grams will make very

little difference to the Valley's winter air pollution problem.

The TCC also said it believed any new emissions standard must be set independent of industry, based on health and coupled with a high efficiency standard.

"A low emissions and high efficiency standard means people who want to heat their homes with wood can do with new generation heaters that are cleaner, use less wood, cheaper to run and better for our health," the TCC said..

In July 2012 ACT Environment Minister, Simon Corbell, stated "annual air quality monitoring had identified smoke from domestic wood heaters as the most significant source of air pollution in Canberra."

"The Air Quality Report shows four breaches of National Air Quality Standards occurring during the colder months because of wood heater emissions," Mr Corbell added.

The TCC said domestic wood smoke pollution can be a serious health problem in the Tuggeranong Valley, especially for people who suffer a pre-existing heart or lung condition, the elderly and the very young whose lungs are still developing.

"While winter air quality has improved in Tuggeranong in recent years, the TCC still encourages residents to consider cleaner, more efficient forms of domestic heating and take advantage of the ACT Government's generous wood heater buy-back program," it said.

The TCC said it will continue to support efforts to reduce all forms of air pollution in the Tuggeranong Valley

Meanwhile, the Council of Australian Governments has identified air quality as an area of national significance to be addressed under a [National Plan for Clean Air](#).

The plan consists of several projects, including reducing wood heater emissions.

The Standing Council on Environment and Water, which includes ACT Government representatives, commissioned the [Consultation RIS](#) for reducing emissions from wood heaters.

On 11 April the Council agreed to its release and has called for public comment.

Submissions close on Monday 15 July 2013.



## Mother of the year

47-year-old Katherine Wills of Gordon has been named ACT Barnardos Australia's 2013 Mother of the Year. Member for Brindabella, Zed Seslja, recently presented the prestigious award.

Katherine will now attend the national announcement gala luncheon to be held at Doltone House, Darling Island Wharf in Sydney on Friday, 10th May, where the 2013 Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year will be named.

Barnardos is one of Australia's leading child welfare charities.



# “Footsteps” centenary project kicks off



*Tuggeranong Community Festival President, Michael Lindfield has launched “Footsteps to Follow”.*

A Canberra Centenary project, aimed at highlighting the contribution and achievements of Tuggeranong residents, has been launched.

“*Footsteps to Follow*” is the brainchild of long time Tuggeranong Community Festival organiser, Michael Lindfield.

Under the project 25 people who have made significant contributions to the Tuggeranong community will be recognised this year with a commemorative plaque in Tuggeranong Town Park. A new inductee will then be added every year for the next 100 years.

At the recent launch at the ACT Legislative Assembly, Mr. Lindfield called for nominations from Tuggeranong residents.

“We’re calling on the community to nominate people who have made real and lasting contributions to Tuggeranong’s social, economic, political, cultural, scientific, education and legal fabric, including hobbies and special interest areas,” said Mr. Lindfield.

“*Footsteps to Follow* will give all Tuggeranong residents a chance to think

passionately about our community, Tuggeranong’s historical roots, and our collective expectations for the future,” Mr. Lindfield added.

“We welcome nominations from throughout the Tuggeranong community, including Tharwa, Williamsdale and the area south to Guises Creek,” he said.

*Footsteps to Follow* is one of 51 community-based projects funded through the Centenary Community Initiatives Fund.

The fund has allocated over \$1m to community projects after receiving a wide range of ideas from the community and assessment by an independent panel. The community projects span the arts, sport, craft, culture, youth, disability and community sectors.

“It’s wonderful to see grass roots community celebrations, such as *Footsteps to Follow*, as a lasting legacy of Canberra’s Centenary,” said Jeremy Lasek, Executive Director of the Centenary of Canberra.

“*Footsteps to Follow* is truly a community project, and will be driven by the community. It will be a showcase of Tuggeranong not only to its own community but also to the wider Canberra region,” Mr. Lasek said.

An independent panel has been established to choose the 25 best nominations. The panel consists of individuals representing a broad cross-section of our community. Download the nomination form at <http://www.canberra100.com.au/storage/Footsteps%20to%20Follow%20-%20Nomination%20Flyer.pdf>

For more information visit here and follow the prompts under *Footsteps to Follow* Nominations, or email: [nomination.footsteps.to.follow@gmail.com](mailto:nomination.footsteps.to.follow@gmail.com)

*Source: Media Release*

# Immunisation rates low



*A baby suffering from Whooping Cough*

South Canberra, including the Tuggeranong Valley, has the lowest immunisation rates for one year-olds in the ACT, according to a government report released recently.

The National Health Performance Authority Report on immunisation showed that while immunisation rates in the ACT were above the national average inner areas of Canberra, North Canberra, Woden Valley and South Canberra had the lowest rates in the ACT. Weston Creek had the highest.

While ACT Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher, welcomed the report, she said there was still need for improvement. Ms Gallagher said the national immunisation program is a vital element of any society.

“The health of all of us relies on the participation of all in protecting us, particularly vulnerable people and children, from becoming unwell,” Ms Gallagher said.

“Immunisation in the ACT is a collaborative effort between public and private immunisation providers, the Health Directorate, ACT Medicare Local and Medicare Australia,” she said.

Ms Gallagher said the report also contains the immunisation coverage rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and shows that we still have work to do in this area.

*Source: Media Release*

## News in brief

### Health service app

ACT Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher, launched the new Find a Health Service mobile application making healthcare services, practitioners and after hours information available to users when they're on 'on the go' or away from a computer.

The Find a Health Service app is now available as a free download from the Apple® App Store for devices such as iPhone or iPad, or the Google® Play Store for Android devices.

For users with internet-enabled smart phones, mobiles or tablets the application is also accessible by visiting [www.findahealthservice.act.gov.au/m](http://www.findahealthservice.act.gov.au/m)

### Trade Centre opened

Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann MP, has officially opened the new Chiara Centre, component of the Canberra Region Pathways Trade Training Centre at St Clare's College in Griffith ACT.

Ms Brodtmann said that St Clare's Trade Training Centre was one of four schools to share over \$5.7 million from the Gillard Government as part of the Trade Training Centres in Schools program.

"The trade training facility will provide relevant training in various industries, including qualifications in construction, hospitality and manufacturing that will best prepare our students for the highly skilled workforce of tomorrow," Ms Brodtmann said.

Further information about the Canberra Region Pathways Trade Training Centre and all schools funded under the Program is available at [www.tradetrainingcentres.deewr.gov.au](http://www.tradetrainingcentres.deewr.gov.au)

### Mayor asked to explain

The Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) is seeking an explanation from the Queanbeyan Mayor, Tim Overall, over a recent letter in the Canberra Times newspaper.

The letter accused the TCC of being a "puppet of Canberra Airport" and was written in response to the TCC's strong opposition to residential development at Tralee. A follow up letter to the newspaper claimed the author had failed to identify themselves as a senior Queanbeyan City Council officer.

TCC Secretary, Darryl Johnston, said the Council had written to the Queanbeyan Mayor on two separate occasions seeking an explanation but has not received a response.

At the last Council meeting TCC members voted to instruct lawyers to informally raise the issue with the Mayor on behalf of the TCC.

### Road signs update

Work is now underway to update speed limit signage on arterial roads.

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Shane Rattenbury, said the update follows a review of speed limit signage last year by Roads ACT to ensure road signage is consistent across the ACT and in accordance with the latest Australian standards.

He said the review identified some key areas in which speed limit signage could be improved.

"This included additional speed limit signs on some sections of road, ensuring signs are erected independently on a standalone post and signs on each side of a carriageway where speed limits change," he said.

"As a result of the review, Roads ACT is introducing additional speed limit signage and making some adjustments to existing signage," Mr. Rattenbury said.

*Source : Media Release*



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## Next TCC meeting

The next Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7 May.

Guest speakers will include ACT Government representatives who will address the TCC on proposals for large scale residential development on the land opposite Bunnings hardware store at Greenway.

The proposed development on the shores of Lake Tuggeranong will include apartment blocks, recreation and entertainment areas and a café strip.

The presentation follows widespread community consultation on the proposed development, which included a display at the Tuggeranong Hyperdome.

The TCC will also be given an update on progress with the development of a new retirement complex at Isabella Plains.

The TCC meeting will be held in the upstairs function room at the Canberra Southern Cross Club in Greenway, will commence at 7.30pm.



- Apr 28:** Australian Institute of Sport Open Day
- May 7:** TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club
- May 12:** Tuggeranong Homestead Markets
- June 4:** TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club
- June 9:** Tuggeranong Homestead Markets
- July 2:** TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club
- July 14:** Tuggeranong Homestead Markets

## Valley Voice



Tuggeranong Community Council's newsletter, *Valley Voice* is designed to inform Valley residents of issues that impact on them and to act as a vehicle for other community groups and organisations to communicate with residents.

*Valley Voice* is produced on a regular basis and is circulated amongst TCC members and friends. If you wish to receive copies of *Valley Voice* in the future please email [info@tuggcc.com](mailto:info@tuggcc.com).

Meanwhile, if you have articles or images you wish to contribute to *Valley Voice* please email them to [info@tuggcc.com](mailto:info@tuggcc.com) by the 20th of each month.

Please feel free to pass *Valley Voice* on to those who you think may be interested in its contents.

*Valley Voice* is published by the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC). Material in this publication comes from a variety of community and government based sources and therefore does not necessarily reflect the views of the TCC.

Material submitted to the TCC for inclusion in *Valley Voice* may be subject to editorial changes. Material that includes dates, times and contact details is correct at the time of publishing. Therefore, the TCC cannot be held responsible if it is not informed of any changes to that information prior to publication.

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*Tuggeranong Community Council Inc. (TCC) is an incorporated, voluntary, not for profit, non political, community based association operating within the Tuggeranong district of the Australian Capital Territory.*

*TCC is formally recognised as the peak community representative body in Tuggeranong promoting the goals and aspirations of local residents and other community groups and organisations within the Tuggeranong Valley. TCC receives partial funding from the ACT Government.*

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