

# Clare O'Neil MP

Federal Member for Hotham

Federal Budget 2024

Delivering for Hotham

Labor



## A message from Clare

The Federal Budget has been handed down – and it's one designed to tackle cost-of-living pressures with real and meaningful support, while also taking a look to the future.

Many across Australia are doing it tough and Hotham is no different. It's my – as well as the Albanese Labor Government's – priority to help ease these financial challenges we all face.

This Federal Budget has some big announcements and I want to ensure you're accessing everything available to you. So please take a look in this Hotham Budget snapshot.

We're operating in a tricky economic climate right now, and many are feeling the impacts stemming from global uncertainty. And while the Budget won't fix all the problems, these cost-of-living measures will help make a real difference to people in Hotham.

I really believe this is a Labor Budget through and through. It's a Budget that reflects the values I am committed to fighting for as your Member of Parliament.

It's a Budget for every Australian, not just some.



## Bigger, fairer tax cuts

From 1 July, we'll deliver a bigger tax cut for all taxpayers.

**That's around 86,000 people in Hotham. The average tax cut for Hotham taxpayers is \$1411.**

To find out how much you will save from 1 July visit

 [taxcuts.gov.au](https://taxcuts.gov.au)



## Cheaper energy bills



We're giving every household a \$300 energy rebate to help with the cost of your power bill.

Eligible small businesses will also receive \$325 rebate on their electricity bills.

This builds on the cost-of-living measures we've already put in place, like cheaper childcare for families, creating jobs and getting wages moving again.

## Wiping \$3 billion in student debt

**We're wiping \$3 billion in student debt for more than 3 million Australians and more than 23,000 people in Hotham.**

To do this, we're introducing HELP loan credits for people impacted by the recent inflation spike.

We're also making sure that student debt never grows faster than someone's wages or ability to pay it off. Last year's indexation spike wasn't fair – under our changes, it won't ever happen again.

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The adjustment to the indexation of HECS study loans is a welcome change that will make the HECS system fairer and make a positive difference in my life and many Australians paying off student loans.

– **John** a Springvale local and university graduate with two bachelors and a masters degree

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## A future made in Australia

We want people and businesses in Hotham to have every opportunity to thrive.

The Albanese Labor Government's Future Made in Australia Act will invest in manufacturing, clean energy, skills and infrastructure to power a new generation of jobs in our regions and suburbs.

We're helping more Australians get a TAFE qualification, or a university degree. And we're training people in new technologies and attracting investment in strategic industries.

To secure Australia's place as a renewable energy super power, we're building the infrastructure and clean energy to power new growth. And we will use that cleaner and cheaper energy to power a new generation of advanced manufacturing.

All of this will help to build a highly skilled workforce in Hotham and create secure jobs with fair wages.



**Investing in Australian organisations:** Optiscan Imaging in Mulgrave is developing and manufacturing a miniature digital microscopy probe powered by AI, allowing specialists to see in real-time and remotely what is happening with patients. They were recently recognised as part of the Cooperative Research Centres Projects (CRC-P) Grants Program with a \$3 million grant to assist with their R&D efforts and accelerate their work.

## Strengthening Medicare and making medicines cheaper



We're investing \$2.8 billion to strengthen Medicare by providing more Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, more free mental health services and higher Medicare rebates for many common medical tests.

**In Hotham, locals have already saved more than \$2,400,000 on cheaper medicines.**

Those with access to PBS medicines are set to save even more thanks to our freeze on the maximum cost of a PBS medicine – with pensioners and concession card holders in Hotham paying no more than \$7.70 for their PBS medications for the next 5 years.

**In the last year, more than 64,000 residents in Hotham accessed almost 200,000 pathology services – and they will be staying bulk billed.**



Last year at the Hotham Women's Health Forum with The Hon Ged Kearney MP, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care.

Women from Hotham shared their experiences with healthcare.

This is a Budget that invests in women: \$160 million plus targeted to women's health, including longer consultations for complex gynaecological conditions, support to families who've suffered miscarriage and pregnancy loss and funding for GPs to provide better menopause care.

## Building 1.2 million homes

We've set an ambitious goal of building 1.2 million homes by the end of the decade to address housing shortages.

To deliver more homes, we're training more tradies, and funding more apprenticeships.

We're kickstarting construction by cutting red tape, giving \$1 billion to state governments to get homes built quickly, and delivering the biggest investment in social housing in more than a decade.

Building homes won't happen overnight. But it's the best and most lasting fix to our housing shortage.



**With more than 1,800 apprentices working towards a nationally-recognised qualification in Hotham, the Albanese Labor Government is looking to encourage more apprentices to take up training in areas our economy needs them most.**

Apprentices in priority occupations will be eligible for an incentive of \$5,000 to assist with cost-of-living pressures and support them to finish their training.



## A rental boost

**More than 5,500 Hotham households will be getting extra help with rent, with the Budget delivering the first back-to-back increase to Rent Assistance in more than 30 years.**

This change will take the maximum rate to over 40% higher than when we came to Government.

Our targeted assistance will provide a little bit extra to people who need it the most, and benefit around 1 million households.

# A better future for Defence personnel, veterans and families

The Albanese Government is investing an additional \$477 million to increase our support to the more than 340,000 veterans and dependents accessing services through the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

**This will benefit almost 1,500 veterans in Hotham.**

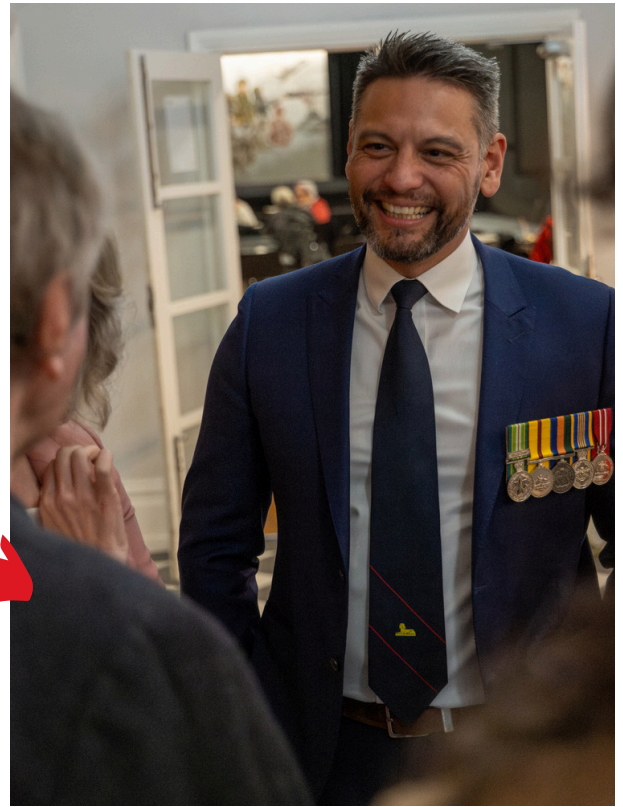
This means funding for the Department of Veterans' Affairs remains at a record high, now better funded than it has been in three decades.

I met Oakleigh Carnegie RSL President Dan Cairnes at this year's Anzac dawn service. According to Dan:

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Investing in our veterans, current defence force members and also their families gives the care and helping hand they need, but also shows future generations how much we value ordinary Australians who have made, and continue to make, personal sacrifices for our country.

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## Do you want to find out more about what the Federal Budget means for Hotham?



For a breakdown of what the 2024-25 Budget delivers for our Hotham community, scan the QR code or visit:



[www.clareoneil.com/budget](http://www.clareoneil.com/budget)

### Get in touch

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