



Image: Celebrating Onam in Springvale.

Clare O'Neil MP

Spring Reflection

Dear resident,

I always like to pause in spring and reflect on the year that was.

I've been lucky to get out and about across Hotham – visiting schools, sporting clubs, RSLs and community groups. I've got to announce new grants, and see the impact of past ones. I've attended incredible multicultural festivals and celebrations. We've delivered Seniors and Pensioners and School Leavers kits, new flags to community organisations, not to mention new photos of the King and Queen (who I got to see at their recent visit to Parliament House!).

It's been busy, but it's also been a challenging time for many as we grapple with cost-of-living strain. Whether you have a young family like me, live in a share-house, are retired, live alone or are in another situation, cost-of-living hits everyone differently.

It's these times where I'm especially proud to fight for you and to be part of the Albanese Labor Government as we introduce and deliver a range of measures to help you through this pressured time.

Please take a look in this newsletter to ensure you're accessing everything available to you.

In my roles as Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness, I've had the opportunity to meet some remarkable people and organisations. One being Lighthouse Foundation. I was privileged to visit their Southern Hub which is closer to our part of the world. Here they support children and young people experiencing homelessness and trauma. Housing and homelessness are huge challenges across the country, but I'm energised to stand alongside these wonderful people making a difference. Many who are Hotham locals.

Finally, this newsletter has a short survey. Issues, challenges and priorities are always changing so I want to make sure I'm fighting for what matters to you most right now. I would love for you to please share your views.

As always, stay in touch.

– Clare

Federal Member for Hotham



Cost-of-living support

Getting wages up. Getting costs down. Getting inflation back where it should be. We're tackling cost-of-living everywhere we can.

- ✓ **Every household is getting \$300 off their power bill**
Not to mention, eligible businesses will receive \$325 rebate on their electricity bills. Visit supportingaustralians.gov.au/energy-bill which covers common questions about energy bill relief.
- ✓ **Every taxpayer in Hotham is receiving a tax cut**
That around 86,000 in our community, with the average tax cut being \$1,411.
- ✓ **We're adding two weeks to parental leave**
Labor will keep expanding paid parental leave until we reach 26 weeks in 2026.
- ✓ **We're cracking down on unfair and excessive debit card surcharges**
Whether you're paying by cash or card, if you're using your own money, it shouldn't cost you more.
- ✓ **We're getting you a better deal at the supermarket**
One way is by focusing on 'shrinkflation' - that's shrinking your favourite products but keeping the same price (or even making it more expensive).
- ✓ **We're creating more jobs**
One million new jobs have been created since Labor came into Government. And with our pay rises for award wage workers, people are earning more.
- ✓ **We want to help more Australians to own their own home**
Help to Buy will assist 40,000 Australians on low and middle incomes to buy a home of their own with a smaller mortgage and smaller deposit. This could help hundreds of Hotham locals to get into a home of their own.

We're making medicines cheaper too



A big shout out to our healthcare community that works incredibly hard to support households of Hotham – including our pharmacists, like Judy who I met in Springvale recently.

It takes real collaboration to support healthcare. I'm proud to be part of the Albanese Labor Government as we do our part too by freezing the maximum cost of PBS medicines.

And a reminder – pensioners and concession card holders in Hotham won't pay more than \$7.70 for their PBS medications for the next five years.

Hotham Highlights



Celebrating Onam in Springvale

The sun was out in Springvale to celebrate Onam, an annual Hindu festival that commemorates New Year's Day - it's also a harvest festival. There was incredible entertainment too, including an amazing drum performance.



Opening the new green at Oakleigh Bowling Club

One of the oldest lawn bowling clubs in Victoria now has some of the newest greens! I loved getting down to the Oakleigh Bowling Club with my kids to see President Steve Carr, the members and my friend Mayor Nicky Luo to officially open the new greens. The club is the perfect welcoming spot for both seasoned bowlers and beginners looking to learn!



Visiting lil constituents at Hughesdale Kinder

It was so lovely to get down to Hughesdale Kindergarten and catch up - and play! - with the four year old group, and their wonderful teachers, staff and president. Many of these kids will be starting school next year and thanks to the support of kinder, they're ready for the next big step!



Marking 20 years of Noble Park's Art Show

What an incredible milestone! I was proud to help launch Noble Park's Art Show 20 years ago as the Mayor of Greater Dandenong. Even more excited to attend its 20th year at its Noble Park Community Centre home - with a record 700+ submissions!

Survey: I want to hear from you

Your concerns, views and ideas are important to me. I want to make sure your voice is heard as I fight for you in Parliament. Please share your views in this survey.

Visit www.clareoneil.com/survey24 or scan the QR code or call my office on 03 9545 6211 to share your answers.

Or simply cut, fold and tape the below as per the instructions and post to my office (no stamp needed).



What are your top 3 priorities for the Australian Government?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing | <input type="checkbox"/> The economy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aged care | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aust manufacturing | <input type="checkbox"/> Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare | <input type="checkbox"/> Job security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate action | <input type="checkbox"/> Political integrity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of living | <input type="checkbox"/> Roads & highways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability support | <input type="checkbox"/> Skills & training |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other - please detail: |

What is the biggest challenge you and your household are facing now?

If you had \$1 million to spend in Hotham, what change would you like to see here in our local community?

Any other comments, concerns or ideas you want to share

Your details

Name: _____

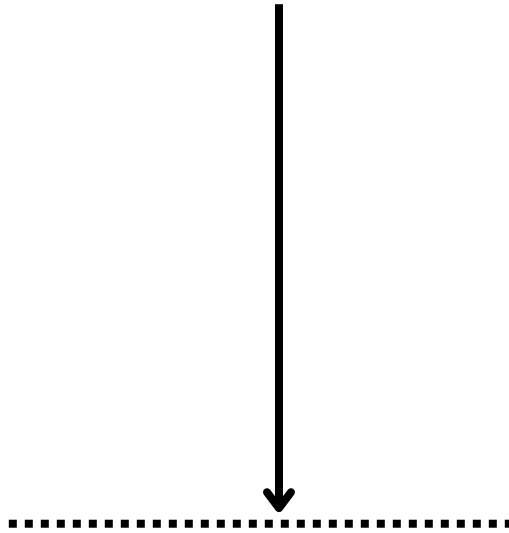
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Please follow instructions on back page for sending your answers back to my office.



2. Fold this dotted line next to cover half your survey answers



Sticky tape edges to seal



1. Fold this dotted line first to cover half your survey answers

Sticky tape edges to seal



Spotlight on schools



SOUTH OAKLEIGH COLLEGE



BENTLEIGH SECONDARY COLLEGE

Wishing Hotham students all the best with their assessments and a special mention to those about to graduate. Here are some snaps of local Year 12 students with 'Stuff You Should Know' - a resource I sent them for navigating their next stages and accessing government services.



HUGHESDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL TURNS 100!



ANNOUNCING \$572,113 FOR A NEW PLAYGROUND AT WESTALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

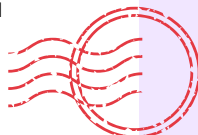


JOINING IN ON VCE POLITICS AT KILLESTER COLLEGE

Clare O'Neil MP

Federal Member for Hotham

-  @clareoneilmp
-  @clareoneilmp
-  @ClareforHotham
-  @ClareONeilMP
-  www.clareoneil.com
-  clare.oneil.mp@aph.gov.au
-  (03) 9545 6211
-  17-19 Atherton Road
Oakleigh VIC 3166



Changes to Hotham's boundaries

The federal electorate redistribution has now been finalised by the Australian Electoral Commission. This means that after the next election it will sadly be goodbye to some current parts of Hotham. You can learn more about the boundary changes by visiting the AEC website.

It is always important to keep the AEC up to date on your information and preferences too. For instance, if you want to receive a postal vote application for the next election. My office can help you with that.