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The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP
Member for Vacluse



25 January 2023

Dear Resident

I'm sending you my final e-newsletter before the March 2023 State Election. It has been an absolute privilege to serve as the Member for Vacluse over the last 12 years. I thank you sincerely for your strong support and warm friendship over this time.

We have stood together to protect all the things that make our electorate special. We achieved many things together, including upgrades to our public transport network, local schools, parks, playgrounds, hospitals, cycleways, and roads and better protecting our precious environment and heritage. [Here is a link to my latest newsletter](#) reflecting on our proudest community achievements.

I will continue to serve as your MP until the writs for the election are issued on Monday, 6 March 2023 and key dates for the election are [here](#). In the meantime, as always, I stand ready to help you, so please don't hesitate to contact me by email or phone on 9326 1856.

I've also included below some local and NSW Government updates that may be of interest.

Sydney Roosters Centre of Excellence Opens

Our local NRL team now have a new home following the official [opening of their state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence](#) at Allianz Stadium last night. The NSW Government invested \$5.7 million toward the Centre which will house the Roosters' NRL and NRLW teams and provide grassroots players access to a world-class training hub.

The new facility includes a large strength and conditioning gym, medical facilities, club museum as well as multipurpose community facilities to support the expansion of the Club's community programs.





Vale Donna

I wanted to also pay tribute to my long-term staff member Donna who worked in the Electorate Office serving the community over the last eight years. Donna was warm, caring, hardworking and reliable. She was most likely the person you spoke with if you rang the office and she accompanied me to so many local events. After battling a serious illness over the last year, Donna sadly passed away on Monday. We miss her very much.

Please have a safe public holiday and weekend.

Kind regards

AUSTRALIA DAY EVENTS

Tomorrow, I'll be joining our local councils for their citizenship ceremonies to welcome our newest citizens taking their pledge as Australians. It's always a joyful occasion and a reminder of how diverse and welcoming our local community is.

There are a range of events across Sydney tomorrow to mark Australia Day including:

- [Dawn Reflection at Sydney Opera House](#)
- [Australia Day at Government House, Sydney](#)

- [Sydney Harbour Splash from Woollahra Sailing Club](#)
- [Vintage Bus Ride from Circular Quay](#)
- [Australia Day at The Rocks](#)
- [Australia Day at Darling Harbour](#)
- [Salute to Australia and fast jet flyover, Dawes Point](#)
- [Australia Day concert at Circular Quay](#)

You can see the full program of events [here](#).

NSW RECORD INTAKE OF JUNIOR DOCTORS

Staff and patients in NSW public hospitals will benefit from a record 1,100 medical graduate interns starting work in hospitals this week. It includes 113 interns with the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District which includes Prince of Wales and St Vincent's Hospital. The class of 2023 is the biggest intake of graduate interns ever in NSW and more than any other state or territory.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON OXFORD ST CYCLEWAY, PADDINGTON

The NSW Government committed to build a cycleway along Oxford Street East between Paddington Gates and Taylor Square to complete the missing cycle link from the Eastern Suburbs to the CBD. An interactive map for the Oxford Street East cycleway is currently live online [here](#) and you can provide feedback until 28 February 2023.



PARENTS TO SAVE ON PRESCHOOL IN 2023

For the first time, parents whose children attend preschool programs at Long Day Care settings will enjoy subsidised fees, following the introduction of the new [\\$1.3 billion Start Strong Affordable Preschool Program](#). From this month, all NSW families will be eligible for:

- up to \$4,220 per year in fee relief for 3, 4 and 5-year-olds attending a community or mobile preschool,
- up to \$2,110 per year in fee relief for 4 and 5-year-olds attending preschool in a long day care setting on top of their Child Care Subsidy payment, and
- the equivalent of 5 days a fortnight of affordable preschool fee relief for all children in Department of Education preschools.

Find out more about the Early Years Commitment on the Department of Education [website](#).

TOLL CASH BACK FOR SYDNEY DRIVERS

The NSW Government's Toll Relief Rebate Scheme is now open enabling NSW drivers to claim a 40% rebate up to \$750 when they spend \$375 on tolls in a year. Motorists who wanted to claim the rebate need to link their personal toll account to their MyService NSW account and make the claim online. For more details on the new Toll Relief Scheme click [here](#). Anyone needing any assistance can call 13 77 88 or visit a [Service NSW Centre](#).

SUMMER EVENTS BOOSTING NSW ECONOMY

The NSW Government has [supported 38 events across the State](#) in December, January and February, which are expected to attract more than 230,000 visitors and generate more than

\$260 million for the visitor economy across their full season run. Event highlights include OPEN FOR LUNCH, Noël Sydney, ELEVATE Sydney and record-breaking ticket sales at Parkes Elvis Festival. For more information about events across the state, go to www.visitnsw.com and www.sydney.com.

FREE RATs AVAILABLE FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Vulnerable communities will continue to receive free access to Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) with the NSW Government extending the program to 30 April 2023. Eligible Commonwealth Concession Card holders in NSW can access 10 Rapid Antigen Tests through community centres and Service NSW centres across the state. To find one near you and for more information click [here](#).

NEW PATHWAYS INTO TEACHING IN NSW

Aspiring teachers in NSW will soon be able to enter the classroom after completing a one-year postgraduate course. Under a NSW Liberal and Nationals Government, those with an undergraduate degree would be able to complete a one-year full time postgraduate degree in order to become a secondary school teacher from 2024, with streamlined postgraduate pathways for primary school teachers available by 2026. More information is [here](#).



FREE MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR ALL NSW STUDENTS

Students at NSW public schools will return to school in 2023 with access to free menstrual hygiene products. More than 4600 dispensers have been installed in public schools across the state to support young women overcome barriers accessing these products.

The NSW Government is also supporting delivery of the Periods, Pain and Endometriosis Program (PPEP-Talk), developed by the Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia (PPFA) - a program to help students, parents and schools understand endometriosis and pelvic pain and early intervention strategies. More information is available [here](#).

You can forward this e-newsletter to a friend by [clicking here](#).



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