

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Tuesday 15 May 2018

SUPPORTING REGIONAL YOUTH

Federal Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad MP said he is very happy to see the Federal Government giving regional youth and students the helping hand they need following the announcement of the 2018-19 Federal Budget.

“The Government is really stepping up to give more support than ever to our regions youth with more access to youth allowance, to higher education in our small towns and to ensure they have the support systems in place that they need to succeed.”

Following more than 50 letters of support from locals for the National School Chaplaincy Fund and strong advocating in Parliament the fund has now been reinstated with ongoing funding to ensure local schools can employ a chaplain to be available for students.

“This isn’t a religious funding scheme at all; this is someone in your child’s school who they can talk to about anything they like. From family, to their studies or future career path...it’s also taking a strong look at bullying in our school systems.”

Regional students can also expect to see improved access to Youth Allowance with the Federal Government changing the threshold needs for parental income.

“The new income criteria for independence will be increased to \$160,000, with a further \$10,000 increase for each additional child who wishes to go onto higher education,” Mr Broad said.

“In the past this has been really tough for our local youth, with many not dependant on their parents at all, yet have been knocked back due to parental income being too high. This is taking those situations on board and looking at how we can make it more accessible for everyone.”

Improved access can also be seen in the Government’s commitment to increasing the number of Commonwealth Supported Places at regional universities. \$14 million will be spent to open up more places for regional students commencing a Bachelor’s Degree at University through a regional study hub.

“It is vital that if students across the Wimmera, Mallee and Mildura regions want to study at university locally then we have spot for them, and we do everything we can to support that,” Mr Broad said.

Email andrew.broad.mp@aph.gov.au
Web www.andrewbroad.com
Phone 1300 131 620

Media contact: Tori Masters
Email tori.masters@aph.gov.au
Phone 0418 445 233

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Another measure set to support regional youth is the tax relief announced for all working Australians earning up to \$87,000.

“This is \$10 dollars a week, \$520 a year back into the pockets of hard working Australians, and especially for those who might just be starting out in the workforce and on a relatively low income this is a big win.”

“It’s fantastic to see so many measures that are ensuring regional youth are supported as they choose their future paths,”

“It is a great thing when young people can stay in our small towns and don’t need to move away to get the education they’re after, and these are small steps to making that happen.”

-ENDS-

Email andrew.broad.mp@aph.gov.au
Web www.andrewbroad.com
Phone 1300 131 620

Media contact: Tori Masters
Email tori.masters@aph.gov.au
Phone 0418 445 233