

STANDING UP

FOR HOTHAM

NEWS FROM CLARE O'NEIL MP

SUMMER 2023



Dear Resident,

Happy New Year and I hope you got some time to relax over the Festive Season.

This time of year is always special for me and my family. My three little ones had a great Christmas, and spent the summer holidays relaxing at home and running under the sprinkler on hot days.

I have been thinking of you all over this period, and reflecting on how deeply proud I am to represent this incredible community: from Keysborough to Oakleigh, from East Bentleigh to Clayton, and everyone in between.

2023 will be the first full year of our new Federal Government. I am working really hard to deliver on the things you have told me matter most.

Last year, we got **real action on climate change** for the first time in a decade. Australia now has real emissions reduction targets, which are enshrined in law.

The Albanese Government helped deliver **wage rises for millions** of Australia's lowest paid workers, and new laws were passed to help get wages moving for many more Australians.



For the first time in history, we passed laws for a **National Anti-Corruption Commission**. Integrity and trust are issues you raised with me during the election, and I fought hard for this reform to occur.

We got a lot done in 2022, but families in our community are also dealing with many challenges, in particular, the cost of living.

Some changes have been made to help on this front. At the end of last year, our Energy Price Relief Plan was adopted, **capping coal and gas prices on the east coast**.

We've also **brought down the cost of many medicines**.

A big difference will also be felt this year by **families that use childcare**. The way we fund childcare is changing, and almost all families will benefit from our changes with lower fees.

The cost of living will continue to be a big focus over the coming year.

As your local MP, my job is to be there for you and your family. If I can help you, please get in touch. I also love to hear your take on politics, so please don't hesitate to drop me an email or message to share your views.

With warmest regards and hoping that 2023 is a wonderful year for every one of my constituents.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Clare'.

The Hon. Clare O'Neil MP
Federal Member for Hotham



YOUR VOICE IN CANBERRA

I'm always keen to hear your view on the most important issues to you and your thoughts on the state of federal politics. An update on recent action taken:

- ✔ National Anti-Corruption Commission Bill passed the Parliament – this will bring integrity and trust back into politics.
- ✔ Acting on our emissions reduction targets of 43% this decade and net-zero by 2050.
- ✔ Introduced our Energy Price Relief Plan, capping coal and gas prices on the east coast, to ease energy prices and prepare for a better future.
- ✔ Secure Jobs, Better Pay Bill is now law – this will get wages moving.
- ✔ Cheaper Child Care with 97% of families paying less – 6,500 families in Hotham.
- ✔ Expanded Paid Parental Leave to six months to support working families.
- ✔ Cheaper medicines with a cap on the cost of prescriptions to help with the cost of living.
- ✔ Supported a submission to the Fair Work Commission to get increased wages for aged care workers.
- ✔ Action on Cyber Security – introduced strong laws that will make sure companies keep your data safe.
- ✔ In-depth review into our migration system. Designing a new migration system - one that is fit for the 21st century.
- ✔ Developing a National Housing and Homelessness Plan to set out actions to improve housing outcomes.
- ✔ Strengthening our relationships with international friends and neighbours.



Visiting our Close Neighbours

Australia and New Zealand aren't just friends – we're family. I visited the New Zealand Parliament recently and met with my New Zealand counterparts to discuss how we can strengthen our ties, and what we can learn from one another.

It was wonderful to meet Minister Michael Wood, Minister Priyanca Radhakrishnan, and Minister Meka Whaitiri.

It was such an honour to be welcomed into New Zealand's Parliament with a moving and powerful mihi whakatau. The mihi whakatau is an important Māori practice to welcome manuhiri (visitors). It was such a warm welcome.



Our Relationship with India

It was wonderful to meet His Excellency Mr Manpreet Vohra, High Commissioner of India to Australia. We discussed how our countries can cooperate and collaborate more on cyber security and counter terrorism.

Australia and India's ties have never been stronger.

OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Remembrance Day

I feel proud to have several wonderful RSLs in my electorate.

Every year on Remembrance Day, we pause and reflect at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. We remember those who have gone before us. Those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Those who returned home and whose lives were never the same. The depth of our gratitude remains unchanged.

I was honoured to be able to join both the Noble Park RSL and the Oakleigh-Carnegie RSL for their moving services and to lay wreaths to honour those who served our country.

Lest We Forget.



Jack Edwards Reserve – The Cannons

It was fantastic to visit the Jack Edwards Reserve recently – especially as the Oakleigh Cannons Football Club had just brought home the championship cup! These players are some of the very best, and we're so lucky to have them here. I'm so proud that we partnered with state and local government to fund some big upgrades at Jack Edwards Reserve in Oakleigh. We're expanding the club's facilities with new seating, storage and importantly, more change rooms – making it much easier for more women and young people to join the club and get involved in community sport.

I'm really proud to support this club – go Cannons!



Border Force

It was an honour to meet dedicated Australian Border Force staff at the Mail Gateway Facility at Melbourne Airport.

Every year they screen millions of packages to stop dangerous and illegal items from coming into Australia.

And the Border Force puppies are so cuddly.



OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Community Spirit and Leadership Awards

One of my favourite events every year is my Community Spirit and Leadership Awards Ceremony – traditionally held at East Bentleigh Primary School.

Every year, I ask the Principal of each school in the Hotham electorate to nominate one student to receive a Community Spirit and Leadership Award.

These awards recognise the achievements of students throughout the year, as well as the leadership they have shown within their school and the broader community.

Students are nominated for taking action on climate change and sustainability, for raising funds for the disadvantaged, for supporting the NDIS, and for supporting their peers in the school community.

The awards not only recognise these contributions, they encourage more young people to get involved. Families and friends of the students attend and I know they are very proud of the achievements of these wonderful young people.



Energys Australia

It was wonderful to be at the Energys Australia launch of a megawatt scale hydrogen fuel cell facility right here in my Hotham electorate.

Energys Australia is a dedicated team of scientists, engineers, and energy experts working together to make a clean, sustainable hydrogen future a reality.

Energys Australia recently received a \$5 million Modern Manufacturing Initiative grant from the Australian Government to speed up their expansion and a \$1 million Victorian Government grant to establish a renewable hydrogen production facility.

The launch of this hydrogen facility is an excellent example of Australian tech creating jobs and increasing manufacturing and export opportunities - right here in our local community.



Queen's Jubilee Tree Planting Program

It's always exciting to drop into Valkstone Primary School in Bentleigh East and have a chat with students like School Captains Kynan and Yael.

But these two were even more excited than me about the Queen's Jubilee Tree Planting program.

With support from the Queen's Jubilee Tree Planting program, we were able to plant a whole new forest of nine native trees around Valkstone Primary School.

I can't wait to visit again in a few years and see the shade cast by these beautiful trees as they grow.



OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Keysborough College



I had a chance to spend time with a brilliant team of students at Keysborough College.

It was genuinely inspiring to see such a passion for public service in these young people. We chatted about everything – from public speaking and question time through to the pros and cons of different leadership styles. It was such a thrill to speak with young people in my community who raised really thoughtful and considered questions about leadership and public life.

I just know they are going to be real leaders here in our community in the years to come.

Noble Park Primary School



It was a real pleasure to drop into Noble Park Primary School to catch up with the school leaders. They were thrilled to accept my Graduation Certificates on behalf of Grade 6.

Graduating students around Hotham are getting these certificates in recognition of all their hard work getting to the final years of Primary and Secondary School.

The school leaders seemed to enjoy showing me around their school – including the chook pen!

I am sure your parents and teachers are so proud of you – as I am.

Cheaper Child Care for 6,500 Local Families

Anthony Albanese and Labor promised we'd make child care cheaper.

So that's exactly what we're delivering – for over 6,500 local families.

With 6,500 local families paying less for early childhood education and care from 2023, we're easing cost of living pressures, helping free up time for more parents, and setting our kids up for a bright future.

Cheaper childcare is good for kids, good for families, and good for the economy too.

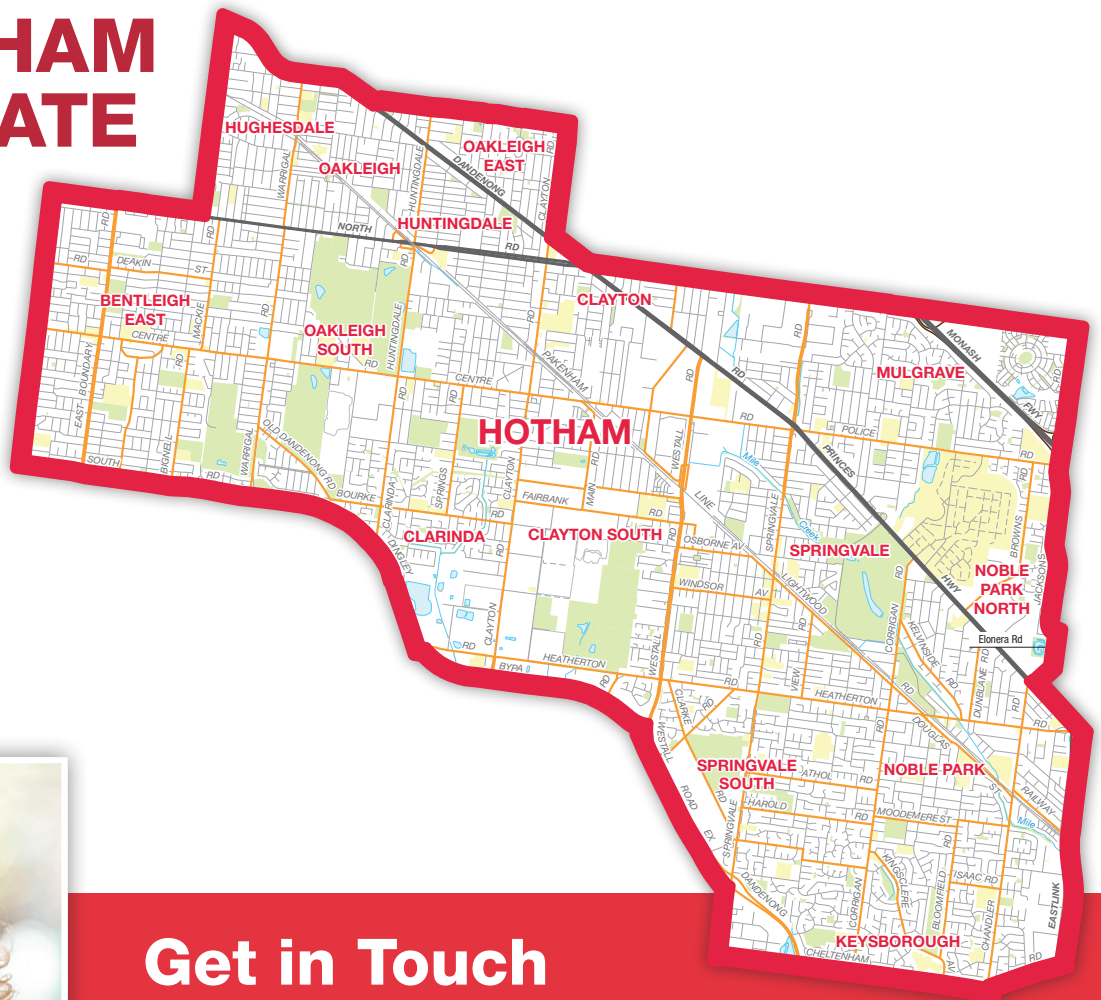


CHRISTMAS AT OUR PLACE

The Festive Season was such a lovely time for our family. Lots of fun family activities, festive food, our kids enjoying the Christmas sunshine, and even our dog Clover got into Santa gear.



OUR HOTHAM ELECTORATE



Get in Touch

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