

## BANKSTOWN HOUSING – GOOD NEWS REPOSSESSIONS DOWN, SALES UP

Federal Member for Blaxland, Jason Clare MP, today welcomed good news of an improving housing market in Bankstown.

“Home repossessions in Bankstown have fallen and house sales have gone up by 20%,” Mr Clare said.

“In August last year 60 homes were repossessed by the Bankstown Sheriff. Last month it was 20,” Mr Clare said.

“This is a massive turnaround. Two years ago sheriffs were flat out having to repossess homes. Now real estate agents are flat out finding places for people to buy.

“Low interest rates and the increase to the First Home Buyers Grant have kickstarted our local housing market,” Mr Clare said.

Since March last year interest rates have fallen by 4

per cent. Interest rates are now at their lowest rate in 45 years.

Local Real Estate Agent Mark Newey said he has been run off his feet: “We’ve had our busiest month in more than five years. Half of them are first home buyers. This is a new generation of home buyers, moving into our community,” Mr Newey said.

“Things are still very tough. You can’t pay the mortgage without a job. That’s why the Government’s Nation Building and Jobs Plan is so important. It will help protect jobs and homes here in Bankstown,” Mr Clare said.

“It’s important that first home buyers make sure that they don’t get in over their heads. We currently have the lowest interest rates in 45 years, but eventually rates will rise. Borrowers should take this into account



when calculating how much they can afford to borrow,” Mr Clare said.

In October 2008 the Rudd Government announced an increase in the First Home Buyers Grant to \$14 000. Nearly 30,000 Australians have received the Rudd Government’s First Home Owners Boost in its first three-and-a-half months of operation.

Jason Clare MP  
MEMBER FOR BLAXLAND

### Get to know your medicines with the NPS Medicine Name Finder

Each year 140,000 people are hospitalised because of adverse events relating to medicine. Many of these cases could be avoided if people had a better understanding of how their medicines work. To help people get to know their medicines, the National Prescribing Service Ltd (NPS) has developed an online tool, NPS Medicine Name Finder, which identifies the active ingredient\* in a prescription medicine and the brand names it is known as.

Launched at Parliament House in Canberra today by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, Senator Jan McLucas, the NPS Medicine Name Finder is NPS’ debut in online social innovation products.

“This unique tool has been designed to help people learn how to quickly and accurately identify important information about prescription medicines. Understanding your medicines can help reduce the likelihood of an adverse event and enable you to have informed discussions with health professionals about managing your health,” NPS CEO, Dr Lynn Weekes said. When a brand name is entered into the NPS Medicine Name Finder, the active ingredient name appears and vice versa when the active ingredient name is entered. Consumers are then prompted to record their medicine details on a downloadable Medicines List or print the information to discuss it with their health professional. A link is also provided to the Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) leaflet which contains more details about the medicine. “Some medicines are known by a number of different names. The NPS Medicine Name Finder will help both consumers and health professionals quickly identify which active ingredients are marketed under which brand names,” Dr Weekes said. The data supporting the online tool is provided by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Division of the Department of Health and Ageing and updated monthly. It does not cover over-the-counter, natural or herbal medicines, nor medicines not listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. The NPS Medicine Name Finder is available to both consumers and health professionals at [www.nps.org.au/medicine\\_name\\_finder](http://www.nps.org.au/medicine_name_finder).

For specific advice about your medicines speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

NPS Medicine Name Finder has been funded by the Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Generic medicines are an equal choice campaign.

## Local fundraising efforts for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal

*When there are images of death and destruction on television or in the newspapers some people turn away, others are compelled to act. I have never been more proud of my local community than in the last few weeks.*

I am proud of the organisations, the companies and the schools that did not turn away and of the people who opened their wallets, their purses and their hearts to the people of Victoria, whether it is the Chinese community in Cabramatta, who raised more than \$50,000 in one night, or the Vietnamese communities in Cabramatta and Bankstown, who did the same; whether it is the men and women who organised these events, people like Dr Lu Vinh Binh, Dr Sang, To Kim Chau, Bui Duc Hung, Tania Huynh and Vinh Trang, Quang Van Truong, Truc Quan, Dang Kim Ngoc, Nguyen Xuan Nhi, Nguyen Van Thuat, Than Van and HenryTran, or the woman

the Bankstown Sports Club donated \$10,000, plus beds, linen, chairs and tables; the Bankstown RSL raised \$2000; and Bankstown Bunnings raised over \$9,500. The Red Cross stood at the front of Bunnings and raised \$300, and the SES stood inside and did the same.

In every school students gave of their time, energy and pocket money. The 52 schools in my electorate all together raised over \$90,000. The Lansvale Public School collected more than just money; they collected



with me at the Cabramatta railway station in the rain, he told me that the fundraising he had witnessed was the best birthday present ever. The



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at Cabramatta railway station who threw \$50 at me said, ‘Make sure it goes to someone who needs it,’ or the man I met at Bankstown railway station who cried as he gave me 60c, saying that that was all he had to give. So many individuals, so many groups and so many businesses gave so much. John Staples and the Yagoona Lions hit the ground and raised \$12,500; Ken Chapman

and the Cabramatta Lions stood on street corners and raised \$6,800; Ted Goetz and the 1st Bass

Hill Scouts baked cakes and pulled together over \$1,000; the Cabravale Diggers raised \$70,000;

messages from the students in four condolence books: one for the people of Victoria and one each for the schools destroyed in the fires—Marysville, Strathewen and

Middle Kinglake. These are just a few of the stories and just a few of the people who opened their hearts. There are many others. Together they raised more than \$250,000.

This is the real Western Sydney, not the one that we too often read about in the newspapers or see on television. Julio Grutillini, the President of the Cabramatta Community Centre, turned 73 years of age three Tuesdays ago. Standing

generosity of so many filled his heart with joy. Nothing that we can do will restore the lives lost, but we can help to rebuild the lives of those that have been broken. The people that I represent know this. So many of them have fled war in search of a new and better life in Australia. They are the proof that we can rebuild and that in the midst of great suffering life can begin again.

Their generosity is proof of the unyielding and ever-renewing Australian spirit.

Office of Jason Clare MP  
MEMBER FOR BLAXLAND