

Gillard Government funds growth for universities

The Gillard Government is investing a further \$1.2 billion over the next four years to fund growth in university enrolments and make higher education available to all Australians.

Minister for Tertiary Education, Senator Chris Evans, said this landmark investment will change the lives of hundreds of thousands of Australians, particularly the children of migrants and second generation Australians, funding more than 480,000 undergraduate places at public universities this year.

This investment is on top of \$2.77 billion in funding already committed by the Gillard Government and will ensure a better opportunity for all Australian young people to pursue a university education.

"Many migrants have made significant sacrifices in coming to Australia so that their children will get the opportunity of a good education and contribute to Australia," Senator Evans said.

"The Gillard Government understands the value of education and this investment will deliver for families who value education and are keen to get a university qualification.

"We are determined that all Australians – regardless of their background – should have the opportunity to gain a university education.

"A university education is a ticket to greater career choice and to high skilled and high paid jobs. These are aspirations that thousands more Australians will now be able to realise.

"That's why Labor is making an historic investment of \$35.7 billion over the next four years in teaching and learning in our universities to ensure more Australians enjoy the opportunities available to those who hold university qualifications.

"In this next generation of students, there will be many migrants and second generations Australians who will be the first in their family to go to university because of this Government's reforms," concluded Minister Evans.

Message from the Premier Barry O' Farrell

The State Government has wasted no time getting on with the job of delivering real change in NSW.

During a busy first eight days in the new Parliament ten pieces of legislation were introduced.

The changes contained in the legislation include the strengthening of police move-on powers to crackdown on anti-social behaviour, a ban on lobbyist success fees and laws to stop Parliament being shut down early before an election.

They also included the restoration of democracy to local government in the Illawarra and the introduction of health districts governed by boards to fulfil a long-standing promise by the NSW Liberals & Nationals.

The NSW Government is delivering on its election commitments and starting the process of improving services for the people of NSW.

We are working hard to restore confidence in Government and correct the 16 years of neglect under Labor.

The strengthening of police powers means officers can move on individuals who are intoxicated and creating a nuisance. Under the previous laws move-on powers could only be used for groups of three or more.

It's a simple but important reform for helping our police keep our streets and other public places safer.

We are also moving swiftly on our promise to upgrade hospitals by joining with the Federal Government to ensure there is more money than ever before for our



health system.

It means hospital projects in Wagga Wagga, Tamworth, Dubbo, Port Macquarie and Bega are closer to being delivered.

We have also begun our Community Cabinet meetings, which will be held in electorates throughout the State, giving all people the opportunity to raise their concerns directly with me and my Ministers in a public forum. These Community Cabinet meetings are opportunities for local people to meet the Ministers who run their roads, schools and hospitals.

We've made good on our pledge to give the community a greater voice in the way the State is run by allowing petitions signed by 10,000 people of more to be debated in State Parliament.

It's a decision that puts people back at the centre of decision-making in NSW and allows them to directly contribute to the agenda for Parliament.

Wherever you live, whatever your job, whatever your heritage, whatever your religion or your lifestyle, we are working hard to improve your communities.

We will deliver the honest and accountable government that you deserve.



POLICE REPORT

Man charged after alleged abduction - Toongabbie

A man is facing court following an alleged aggravated break and enter and child abduction in western Sydney on Sunday night. About 9.25pm (Sunday 15 May), police attended Willmot Avenue, Toongabbie, following reports a one-year-old girl had been abducted.

It is alleged a man armed with a hammer entered a house and stole a car before abducting the girl.

The man then allegedly went to a nearby street where he attempted to gain access to another house. Officers attached to Parramatta Local Area Command, with the assistance of Polair, arrested the man a short time later at a house on Fitzwilliam Street. The girl was then reunited with her family.

The 25-year-old Toongabbie man was arrested and taken to Parramatta Police Station. He was subsequently charged with child abduction, aggravated break and enter (x2), steal motor vehicle, assault and malicious damage.

He has been refused bail and will appear in Parramatta Local Court.

Police appeal after cars set alight - Casino

Police are appealing for public assistance after four vehicles were set alight and destroyed in Casino on Sunday.

About 2.20am, police responded to reports of a fire at an industrial area on Dyrabba Street. Officers attached to Richmond Local Area Command attended and found four vehicles well alight.

NSW Fire and Rescue extinguished the fires however all four vehicles, a prime mover, Toyota Hilux, Holden Rodeo and Mitsubishi 4WD, were extensively damaged. A crime scene was established and police canvassed the area.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Police investigate fatal crash - Argenton

Police will prepare a report for the Coroner following the death of a motorcyclist in a crash near Newcastle yesterday.

About 3.45pm, police and emergency services responded after a Kawasaki motorcycle and a Holden Barina collided at the intersection of Elizabeth Street and Robert Street in Argenton.

NSW Ambulance Paramedics treated the rider, a 50-year-old Argenton man, at the scene before he was taken to John Hunter Hospital, however he died a short time later.

The occupants of the Barina, a 30-year-old man and two children, were uninjured.

Officers attached to Lake Macquarie Local Area Command attended and established a crime scene.

Police are appealing for anyone who witnessed the incident who hasn't already spoken to police, to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Man in hospital after reported shooting - Wiley Park

A crime scene has been established in Wiley Park after a caller to Triple Zero reported a man had been shot.

Police and NSW Ambulance Paramedics

responded to call from Renown Avenue about 7.15pm but were unable to find anyone injured. A short time later police were told a man suffering wounds to his ear, fingers and shoulder, had been brought to a neighbouring hospital in a private vehicle.

Police are waiting to speak with the injured man. His injuries are not considered life-threatening. A crime scene has been established in Renown Avenue and a canvass of the street is being conducted.

Police are now searching for the person responsible. At this time, the shooting is believed to have stemmed from a domestic incident.

Police investigate collision near Lismore

Police from Richmond Local Area Command are investigating the circumstances surrounding a collision near Lismore in which a woman and child were seriously injured. The crash occurred about 2.45pm on Wyrallah Road, Coraki.

The woman and child have both been taken to hospital in a serious condition.

A crime scene has been established. Wyrallah Road is currently closed in both directions.

Investigation continues following serious crash - East Lismore

An investigation is continuing following a serious crash near Lismore today in which a woman and child were seriously injured.

About 2.45pm, a northbound Nissan Patrol and a southbound Toyota Corolla collided on Wyrallah Road, East Lismore.

Police and emergency services were notified and attended the scene.

NSW Ambulance Paramedics treated a 43-year-old woman and nine-year-old girl, both occupants of the Toyota, at the scene before they were taken to Lismore Hospital. They were later airlifted to Brisbane Hospital suffering life-threatening head and chest injuries.

The 60-year-old male driver, and sole occupant, of the other vehicle was not injured. Officers attached to Richmond Local Area Command attended and established a crime scene.

Police are appealing for anyone who witnessed the crash to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Police charge man after attempted armed robbery - Dubbo

Police from Orana Local Area Command have charged a man after an attempted armed robbery in Dubbo.

Around 1.30am (15 May), a man entered a service station on Cobra Street, Dubbo, allegedly armed with a tree limb.

Police will allege the man threatened an attendant at the service station before fleeing the premises empty-handed.

Following an investigation, detectives from Dubbo arrested a 22-year-old man at a home in Doncaster Avenue, Dubbo, about 8am today. The man was charged with assault with intent to rob while armed with an offensive weapon.

He was refused bail to appear in Dubbo Local Court.

**ANY PERSON WHO CAN ASSIST SHOULD CONTACT
CRIME STOPPERS ON 1800 333 000**