

THE QUEENSLAND LINE

WITH SENATOR SUE BOYCE

DECEMBER 2009



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OPENING HOURS:

The office will be closed from Friday December 18, 2009 and will reopen on Monday January 4, 2010.

OFFICE DETAILS:

T: 07 3862 4044 F: 07 3862 4244
E: senator.sue.boyce@aph.gov.au
349 Sandgate Road
(The Old Post Office)
Albion, Qld, 4010
PO Box 143
Albion DC, Qld, 4010
www.sueboyce.com.au

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WHY NOT NUCLEAR?

Australia is unique amongst the G20 group when it comes to generating power. Of the G20 nations, 15 rely on nuclear power and four are building reactors as a means of addressing climate change. Only Australia is refusing to consider nuclear energy as a reliable option that will also reduce carbon emissions.

The Labor Government's position on nuclear energy is hypocritical. Australian uranium mines provide about 22 per cent of the world's nuclear energy supply. In 2008, Australia exported 10,707¹ tonnes of uranium to be used for energy generation. The bulk of these exports went to G20 nations.

The USA was the biggest importer of Australian uranium in 2008 buying 3,689 tonnes, followed by the EU, (3,308 tonnes) and Japan (2,452 tonnes). Given that the UK, France, Germany and Italy are included in the EU figures, Australia exports a significant amount of uranium to seven of the G20 nations whilst refusing to consider nuclear power on its own shores. Australia also sells uranium to other G20 nations such as China, South Korea, Canada, and South Africa.

Australia has the world's largest uranium deposits, with almost a quarter of the world's reserves. Despite these resources and the opportunity to be self-sufficient, Prime Minister Rudd refuses to consider nuclear power as an option for Australia.

Yet Mr Rudd is quick to increase our uranium sales to the world. Speaking in India on November 12 Mr Rudd said that

the Australian Government and India were looking to the day when India's "ambitious nuclear energy program can include Australian uranium."²

Australia refuses to sell uranium to countries which are not signatories to the Non-Proliferation Treaty on the spread of nuclear weapons (such as India). It is prudent to be concerned about the safety of uranium and its use. Australia has a spotless record on the safety of nuclear technology and safer technologies continue to be developed.

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) has safely operated a nuclear research reactor for more than 50 years. We have developed secure storage facilities to hold waste, and the movement and use of radioactive material is governed by Commonwealth and State Acts, as well as international obligations, standards and treaties.

A 2001 study by the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland found that, between 1970 and 1992, nuclear power had the best safety record of all major energy sources in terms of total number of deaths and deaths per terawatt³ of energy produced each year⁴. The results for the top four sources were; coal - 6,400 deaths, 342 deaths per terawatt; hydro power - 4,000 deaths, 884 deaths per terawatt; natural gas - 1,200 deaths, 85 deaths per terawatt; nuclear power - 31 total deaths and 8 deaths per terawatt.

The Chairman of ANSTO, Dr Ziggy Switkowski contends that Australia

continued on page 2

*Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year*

WHY NOT NUCLEAR?

continued from page 1

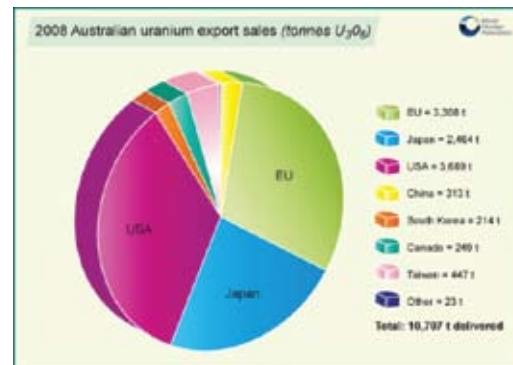
could safely and affordably build 50 nuclear power stations by 2050, providing 90 per cent of Australia's baseload power.⁵ Dr Switkowski says that "nuclear power is the answer to Australia's climate challenges."

In 2006, Australia produced 1.3 per cent of the world's carbon emissions. The world's biggest emitters are China, the United States and the European Union, all of which account for 55.5 per cent of emissions. China is aiming to have 7 per cent of all power produced by nuclear sources by 2020 and the United States currently produces 20 per cent of all its energy by nuclear power.

Dr Switkowski's vision of nuclear power providing 90 per cent of Australia's energy is an ambitious target.

By refusing to consider nuclear energy as an option, Mr Rudd is not only lagging behind the rest of the world, but is hypocritical for spruiking Australian uranium to our

export partners. Nuclear energy is a safe, clean option for Australia and is something we should be debating rather than ignoring.



1. <http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf48.html>
2. <http://www.zeenews.com/news578466.html>
3. A terawatt is a million million watts.
4. <http://gabe.web.psi.ch/research/ra/?forprint>
5. *The Australian* November 16

CARBON POLLUTION REDUCTION SCHEME

I wish to explain why I crossed the floor in the Senate on Wednesday, December 2. I acted with a heavy heart but in good faith.

Let me assure you that I am committed to the principles and policies of the Liberal Party of Australia.

You will recall that Prime Minister Howard and the Coalition Government went to the people in 2007 with the firm commitment to introduce an emissions trading scheme. Given that the ALP was committed to a similar policy – although with a considerably different implementation and potential impact – our 2007 ETS commitment certainly did not contribute to our defeat.

When the government's ETS Bills were presented to Parliament back in August we all voted against them. My vote then in the Senate contributed to the defeat of these Bills which, if carried, would have had a devastating impact across the board.

The Coalition then agreed to negotiate with the government to make these Bills far less draconian and far less severe in their undoubted outcome.

Initially, Andrew Robb and then Ian Macfarlane undertook these negotiations in good faith and with the on-going support of the Coalition.

It has been generally agreed that the Coalition achieved a remarkable 80 per cent of what it had on its initial "wish list" including, for example, the complete exclusion of agriculture. It is a tribute to the patience and skills of Mr Macfarlane that this outcome was achieved.

The debate in the Senate subsequent to this negotiation has been comprehensive. Essentially, the debate has been about whether or not individuals agree with the concept of an ETS or not and I honestly believe that there has been sufficient debate.

The long negotiation Ian Macfarlane and Climate Change Minister Wong had worked through, compromise after

compromise, frankly removed the need for an even longer debate on small details.

I am not saying that the deal that was achieved is an ideal solution; in Parliament I described it as "clunky" and I still believe that. However, it is as good as we could hope for under the circumstances.

I did not take my decision lightly. It was only after much soul searching and weighing up the arguments for and against. But I sincerely felt, and still feel, that my conscience demanded that I vote in good faith.

Coalition supporters who criticise the outcome should reflect on what it would be if we were irrelevant to the process and if the government was negotiating with The Greens. Then we would all have good cause to be horrified by the outcome and its impact.

One of the great strengths of the Liberal Party is its commitment to accepting a diversity of view. Our new Leader Tony Abbott said that any Liberal Senator who crossed the floor would be respected for their views and their honesty and that there would be no recriminations.

Mr Abbott has committed the Liberal Party to the development of a new climate change policy and I welcome that.

There has been enough division and bitterness and we must all move on to the important job of rallying behind the Leader and holding this government to account.

Now that the Senate has failed to allow passage of the government's Bills, the ball is in their court.

Parliament resumes in early February next year and the government has said the Bills will be debated again.

SERIOUS BEGINNING FOR DISABILITY

2009 has seen an increasing focus on the real needs of Australians with a disability.

At the bottom of this lies alarming figures released in November by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showing that about 2.3 million Australians will have a **high** level of disability by 2030.

We need to act now to understand the dimensions of and solutions to this looming problem — in the same way that the Howard Government in the 90s sought to outline the issues around the ageing of the Australian population.

The Government has already announced that the Productivity Commission will investigate the feasibility of new approaches to funding and delivering long-term disability care and support.

The inquiry will examine a range of options for long-term care and support including consideration of whether a no-fault social insurance approach to disability is appropriate in Australia. It will also examine if a scheme would fit with Australia's health, aged care, income support and injury insurance systems.

The feasibility study will assess whether a long-term care and support scheme would be appropriate, practical and economically responsible in the Australian context.

Examination of the potential for such a National Disability Insurance Scheme deserves bipartisan support.

Currently, the amount of assistance a person with a disability receives depends on how and in which State the disability was acquired.

If the disability was acquired in a work or traffic accident, an individual can receive millions of dollars compensation whilst a person born with a similar level of disability scrapes by on the disability support pension and under-resourced State services.

It's certainly time we moved from the undignified current rationing of services by Federal and State Governments to people with a disability to an open-ended system that recognises and assesses needs, and then meets those needs.

The Productivity Commission has undertaken to consult widely and will report to Government in July 2011.

I'm impressed by the Rudd Government's ability to strategise in this area but I'm concerned about their ability to actually deliver.

The Government talks of the "need to harness support across all levels of government to make a difference" and using the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to achieve this.

I hope it doesn't follow the tortuous path of Labor's hospital reform plan which is yet to deliver anything other than broken promises and missed timelines to State hospital users.

The Productivity Commission Inquiry is the major recommendation of the Disability Investment Group report **The Way Forward: A new disability policy framework for Australia** which was released on December 3, International Day for People with a Disability.

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/policy/way_forward/Pages/default.aspx

In the meantime, there are two parliamentary inquiries into disability which I helped to instigate underway.

The first is the inquiry by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Migration into the migration treatment of disability. This committee has already heard evidence from such distinguished native-born Australians as Mr Graeme Innes AM, Australian Human Rights Commissioner, and Professor Ron McCallum AO, former Dean of Law at Sydney University, including the fact that neither would have been allowed to migrate to Australia because of their disabilities (see page 6).

The second — a Senate Community Affairs inquiry in the planning needs of people with disabilities and their families as they age — will report in September 2010.

This inquiry will complement the Productivity Commission's work by investigating answers to the question increasingly asked by ageing parents: "What happens when I can no longer care for my adult child with a disability?" (see page 6).

National Disability Awards, 2009

I was delighted and honoured to attend the impressive ceremony at Parliament House on November 23 to honour those outstanding Australians who have done so much to improve the lives of those with a disability.

There were more than 240 nominations Australia-wide in five categories.

While my congratulations go to all for their magnificent and ongoing achievements, the Queensland awardees deserve a special mention.

Sue Gordon, from Toowoomba, received the Minister's Lifelong Achievement Award. For the past 15 years she has worked with The Advocacy and Support Centre (TASC) and, while there, established the Queensland Criminal Justice Centre, a web-based resource for lawyers representing people with disabilities.

She began her work after her son acquired a severe brain injury and is a passionate and effective advocate.

She established the Disability Action Group Force, a community-driven organisation that focuses on lobbying for people with disability across education, employment, transport, housing and accommodation sectors.

Dr John MacPherson was a finalist in the Local Government Award category. He is a Disability Partnerships and Programs Officer at the Brisbane City Council and has worked extensively with other Councils, Queensland Rail, Queensland Transport and the Main Roads Department providing advice on accessibility.

He played a key role in the establishment of the National Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport.

Sereako Treloggen was a finalist in the Disability Rights Young Leader Award category. Originally from the Torres Strait, he now lives in Tully where he is a school and community leader educating his community about cerebral palsy.

OUR RED TAPE STATE

In September 2009, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) released a survey and report detailing the amount of red tape facing Queensland businesses entitled **Blueprint for Fighting Queensland's Over Regulation**. The report says that a combination of Commonwealth and State red tape has made Queensland the worst state when it comes to complicated bureaucracy.

The CCIQ survey shows that 80 per cent of businesses believe that time and money spent on compliance has increased in the past two years. 72 percent of businesses spend between one and twenty hours a week on compliance.

Business owners in Queensland are struggling to find the time to operate their business efficiently. The CCIQ estimate that the Queensland economy loses \$17.9 billion each year due to time spent on red tape compliance. So the Bligh Government's plans to attempt to reduce red tape by \$150 million by 2012-13 are nothing but a token effort.

To make matters worse, the Australian Institute of Company Directors released its Boardroom Burden Report Card in September showing how bad things really are in Queensland for business.

The Report Card ranks the extent to which the States and Territories impose personal liability on directors for a company's breach of legislation. A score of 100 demonstrates a State or Territory which imposes a level of personal liability that is reasonable and encourages efficient decision making and investment by boards.

The rank takes into account the nature of laws, number of laws and operation of laws. The "Nature of Laws" component measured how punitive each of the laws were and States and Territories lost marks for laws where there was no business judgment defence. The "Operation of Laws" component measured how fair the prosecutorial procedure on directors is in each State or Territory system. Marks were lost for a lack of independent prosecution and for limited appeal avenues.

Queensland scored 18.23 and ranked dead last. South Australia was the next worse, scoring 26.70. The Australian Capital Territory set the benchmark with a score of 72.63 out of 100.

Not only does excessive liability affect business decision-making, it affects what locations companies choose to invest and create jobs. As AICD Chief Executive Officer John Colvin says, "if you were a director, where would you want to do business, locate investment projects and create jobs - a State that gets a mark of 70 per cent or one that gets 18 per cent?"

No wonder business investment in Queensland is falling dramatically when compared to other States and Territories. According to the Queensland Government's Queensland Economic Review, private business investment in capital formations fell by 10 per cent in the June 2009 quarter. This figure compares to the next worse state of Tasmania, which had a fall of 3.4 per cent in capital formation for the same period.

Anna Bligh and Kevin Rudd do not understand the burden of over-regulation on the ability of businesses to operate and employ. With regards to Prime Minister Rudd's approach to markets, former Labor finance Minister under Prime Ministers Hawke and Keating, Peter Walsh recently said "the Prime Minister is an economic illiterate and an egomaniac who won't take any hard decisions."

Rudd and Bligh seem incapable of making the decision to significantly reduce the red tape imposed on Queensland business, despite the Coalition repeatedly calling on their governments to do so. The Rudd Labor Government even finds it hard to keep to commitments already made.

In October, the Rudd Government announced that it was breaking its 'BAS Easy' election promise. BAS Easy purportedly would have given businesses a choice as to how they submit their BAS forms. However we saw no detail of how it would work in practice. Yet again, we had a hollow, symbolic policy from this Labor Government, who had no intention of actually implementing changes to help business operators.

Unlike, the Labor Parties in State and Federal Government, the Coalition has a plan to reduce red tape and allow businesses across the country to operate more efficiently.

For small businesses, the Coalition has committed to quantify the full range of Commonwealth, State and Local filings required to start or expand a business, and to reduce this burden to at least match OECD best practice over the next three years.

The Coalition has also committed to delivering a 'one-stop shop' online business portal which will provide access to all forms and filings, regardless of which level of government imposes them. Forms and filings will be easily submitted using online technology.

The Coalition's policies will encourage the States and Territories to take a more uniform approach to business regulation and pressure each jurisdiction to reduce their regulatory burdens on business and company directors.

Australian Institute of Company Directors Boardroom Burden Report Card

Ranking ¹	State	Measures			Total ⁵
		Nature of Laws ²	Number of Laws ³	Operation of Laws ⁴	
1	ACT	22.63	30	20	72.63
2	Victoria	35.34	20	15	70.34
3	Tasmania	7.69	20	20	47.69
4	NT	11.67	20	15	46.67
5	NSW	27.23	5	5	37.23
6	WA	19.66	0	15	34.66
7	SA	6.70	5	15	26.70
8	Queensland	8.23	5	5	18.23

¹ Based on score in total column

² Score out of 50

³ Score out of 30

⁴ Score out of 20

⁵ Total out of 100

SPEAKING NOTES

Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme - December 2, 2009

My own background is as a manufacturer. In that sphere, I know the benefits of early adoption. I would just like to point out to the Senate that it was the Shergold task force, commissioned by the Howard government, who said, long before we got to this place, that Australia should not wait until a genuinely global agreement has been negotiated, because there are benefits which outweigh the costs in early adoption by Australia of an appropriate emissions constraint. That continues to be my view, but I think there are better ways to go about developing emissions mechanisms in Australia. A straight carbon tax, in my view, would have been the cleanest, easiest option, but that is not an option that is on the table.

... I must admit that I continue to be very concerned by some of the specious and fallacious arguments that are put around carbon. Yes, carbon is a necessary building block. Yes, it naturally occurs. But to suggest that, because of that, all forms of carbon in all quantities are reasonable is, in my view, specious and fallacious. It is the same as suggesting that there is lots of chlorine around because there is a lot of seawater and claiming that all forms of chlorine and all quantities of chlorine are acceptable—when that is wrong. I become very concerned by people who use those sorts of false sciences to attempt to mislead Australian consumers into thinking that it is safe to continue to do what we are doing.

Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme - November 18, 2009

I want to make it very clear today that I am committed to supporting a realistic and effective emissions trading scheme for Australia. The wisdom of the coalition's earlier decision to reject this package of bills has been shown by the amendments that the government has already agreed, even if they are not in the legislation that is before us today. However, despite the agreed amendments—and I sincerely hope that there will be plenty more to protect job-creating businesses—the CPRS is a clumsy mechanism.

... opinion polling by Essential Research showed Australians are concerned about climate change and they want it addressed. They want it done without any indecent rush because that is a recipe for mistakes and errors that could have a disastrous impact. The poll that was conducted between November 9 and 12 showed that 38 per cent agreed that Australia did not need to make decisions about the scheme until after Copenhagen. Thirty-three per cent thought the decision should be taken prior to the conference. A total of 29 per cent were unsure.

Forgotten Australians Adjournment - November 16, 2009

... the apology to the forgotten Australians and the lost innocents, the child migrants of the past. It was an honour to be part of the Senate Community Affairs References Committee, which recommended that this apology be made. And it was a delight to have the opportunity today to be part of such a raw, emotional but uplifting experience as the apology.

I met a man who came from the Sunshine Coast, in Queensland, who was proudly wearing his CLAN colours—CLAN being the Care Leavers of Australia Network. He told me that he had spent 16 years in an orphanage and very briefly went through an account of his experiences there. But when he got out of that orphanage he became involved in what he called motorcycle clubs. Others would have referred to them as outlaw motorcycle gangs. But it was in those gangs, or clubs, that he found someone at last who cared about him—a sense of belonging somewhere,

where someone cared. He spent time in jail because of that involvement, so he has now given away being involved in motorcycle clubs and has started his own motorcycle club. He was there proudly wearing the result of that lifetime of getting to the stage of being happy in his own skin and being able to function as part of the law abiding community. But it was a long, long road for him.

Inside The Boys Club - Fifth Women In Parliament Conference QUT Brisbane - November 6, 2009

Women who have actually made it into Parliament, having overcome all of the obstacles, still face discrimination – it's a discrimination against women by some when they achieve prominence in any area.

If they are seen to be tough then they are unfeminine harpies; if they are seen to be weak then they can't stand the heat and should get out of that particular kitchen and, presumably, back into an actual one.

Because of family and other responsibilities, women often come to politics later than men. There are also cases of young women who, having come to politics, give it up again because of family responsibilities.

Coming late or leaving early is not a recipe for success and promotion.

Family Business Sector Adjournment - October 27, 2009

I imagine that many senators think of the local corner store, the newsagent or the neighbourhood mechanic when they think of family business, so we wrongly assume that by addressing the needs of small business we are also meeting the needs of family business.

... the top private company in Queensland in 2008 was Teys Brothers, a family-owned meat processing company, with 2,718 staff. That is not a small business in anyone's terms.

The Survey of Family Businesses 2009 published recently by KPMG and Family Business Australia further demonstrates that family business is not all small business. True, of the 613 Australian family businesses surveyed, the largest percentage, 36 per cent, had an annual turnover of between \$1 million and \$5 million. But four per cent had a turnover of between \$50 and \$100 million. Another three per cent had a turnover of between \$100 million and \$200 million. And another three per cent had a turnover of more than \$200 million. That is 10 per cent of family businesses in Australia turning over more than \$50 million a year.

So the first reason we do not hear the needs of family businesses frequently discussed in here is that we do not realise how big they are. The second and related reason is that not a lot of research, which would underpin policymaking, has been done on family businesses, and until recently that suited the owners of these businesses just fine. They are not called private companies for nothing.

Commitment - UN Commemoration Day, Canungra - October 24, 2009

As we gather to remember those who serve and have served in defence and policing, we acknowledge their solemn pledge to commit themselves in word and deed, with purpose, and deeply held beliefs.

"...the basic philosophy, spirit, and drive of an organization has far more to do with its ... achievements than do ... resources ... structure ... and timing.

All these things weigh heavily in success. But they are, I think, overshadowed by how strongly the people in the organization believe in its principles and how faithfully they carry them out."

For full copies of any of my speeches, please contact my office or online at www.sueboyce.com.au

INQUIRIES

PLANNING OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Senate has agreed with my call to establish a major inquiry into planning options and services available for people with disabilities and their carers as they age. It will report by September 2, 2010.

The Senate Community Affairs Committee will investigate: "Access to planning options and services for people with a disability to ensure their continued quality as they and their carers age, and to identify any inadequacies in the choice and funding of planning options currently available to people ageing with a disability and their carers."

The Committee will be calling for submissions early next year and I urge all support and advocacy groups for people with disabilities to start considering what advice they could provide.

We will be wanting comprehensive submissions so that we can get the most accurate picture of the current reality and be able to make detailed and well-documented recommendations to the government.

Basically this inquiry will establish what happens now and what should happen in the future when the carers of people with disabilities are not there to continue their supportive role because of death or their own frailty or poor health.

The inquiry complements the inquiry by the Productivity Commission into the concept of a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

People with disabilities are increasingly living in the community and not in institutions, and were more likely to outlive their parents.

This combination means that more and more parents are having to confront the awful dilemma: 'What happens to my son or daughter when I can no longer care?'

TORRES STRAIT INQUIRY

I'm a member of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee inquiring into matters relating to the Torres Strait region and we will report by February 26 next year.

The matters we are considering include the provisions of the Torres Strait Treaty, the role of the Torres Strait Regional Authority, in respect of treaty and border issues including how the authority interacts with Papua New Guinea and Indonesia and the various challenges facing the region.

A distressing picture of third world conditions there has already emerged from the submissions we have received and it is clear that both the Queensland and Federal governments have a lot of work to do to ensure our fellow Australians in this region have the facilities and the protection that we take for granted.

In particular I'll be asking why the Federal Government refuses to consider a freight subsidy scheme similar to Tasmania's for the Torres Strait.

DISABILITY AND MIGRATION

Families and organisations interested in disability should participate in the Parliamentary Inquiry into Migration Treatment of Disability.

The terms of reference are:

- To report on the options to properly assess the economic and social contribution of people with a disability and their families seeking to migrate to Australia;
- To report on the impact on funding for, and availability of, community services for people with a disability moving to Australia either temporarily or permanently;
- To report on whether the balance between the economic and social benefits of the entry and stay of an individual with a disability, and the costs and use of services by that individual, should be a factor in a visa decision;
- To report on how the balance between costs and benefits might be determined and the appropriate criteria for making a decision based on that assessment; and
- To report on a comparative analysis of similar migrant receiving countries.

As a member of the Parliamentary Committee I can accept that if anyone in a family seeking to migrate to Australia has serious health issues, we have every right to reject them. However to reject children with Down syndrome and other disabilities shows a completely out-of-date view.

Down syndrome is not a disease. Most children with Down syndrome do not have ongoing medical conditions and can contribute positively to Australia.

SHAKE-UP FOR FINANCIAL PLANNING INDUSTRY

I have urged the Federal Government to implement as a matter of urgency all eleven recommendations of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services to clean up the financial planning industry and protect innocent and often naïve investors.

Requiring advisers to have a fiduciary duty to protect their clients' interests would be a powerful step to changing this industry for the better.

I was a member of the Committee and our unanimous conclusions followed months of often harrowing evidence, especially from the victims of the collapse of Storm Financial.

Our first recommendation that financial advisers be required to have a fiduciary duty – to put their client's interests ahead of their own – is critical to the protection of investors and clients.

We were also critical of the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) and have urged them to undertake enforcement of legislative standards of advice with a more rigorous and targeted approach.

ASIC must be focussed, alert and pro-active and keep licences under scrutiny with properly trained field staff that can enforce robust audit processes.

We received more than 200 submissions from Storm Financial investors and it was tragic that so many people had been financially and emotionally devastated by the collapse.

QUEENSLAND SNAPSHOT



At a Logan Albert Waterford Women function, assisted by Ms Jaimi-Lee Johanson



With Ian Macfarlane at LNP State Council



With Mr Maxime Carlot, Speaker of the Parliament of Vanuatu



At my office celebrating Queensland's Proclamation Day with a sausage sizzle



With Ms Ann Goody of the Australian Arthritis Foundation



At "Try A Trade Meets Parliament" in Canberra



With Muchow, Cr Virginia Benstead and Daf at Canungra RSL on United Nations Peacekeeper Day



Celebrating Queensland Day at Zion Aged Care Nundah



Accepting a petition on Homebirth from members of the Maternity Coalition



With Sharman Stone, Shadow Minister for Immigration, and community leaders



With artist Mr Geoff King and guests at Nundah Lutheran Centre art show



With Vietnamese monks at Sunnybank

THE OFFICE LINE

A Centenary Of Guiding

2010 has been declared the “Year of the Guides”.

For 100 years the Guiding movement has supported the development of Australian girls into inspiring young women. A commemorative “Centenary of Guiding” coin will be produced by the Royal Australian Mint, and a set of stamps will also be issued by Australia Post.

Girl Guides Australia has an impressive and challenging program of activities planned in all States and Territories. For further information go to www.girlguides.org.au.



Our New Leader - Tony Abbott

I sincerely welcome our new Coalition Leader Tony Abbott.

A Sydney-based MP since 1994, Tony Abbott had a distinguished career prior to his election as a journalist and political advisor.

A Rhodes Scholar, he holds economics and law degrees from Sydney University and an MA in politics and philosophy from Oxford – where he won two boxing blues.

In the Howard Government his roles included, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (1996-1998), Minister for Employment Services, Leader of the House and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service (1998-2001) and Minister for Health and Ageing (2003-2007) workchoices.

In Opposition, he was Shadow Minister for Families, Community Services, Indigenous Affairs and the Voluntary Sector.

Mr Abbott has pledged to consult widely in policy formulation and to travel extensively to ask Australians about their needs, problems and aspirations.

Next year there will be an election. We must stand united behind Tony Abbott, hold the Government to account and work for the election of a Liberal-led government.

CAN I HELP?

As a Senator for Queensland, I represent people throughout the State. I'm happy to help residents, community organisations and businesses with any query or issue that falls with the Federal Government's responsibility.

I may also be able to assist you with information about:

- Government programs and policies
- Parliament House in Canberra
- Funding rounds
- Federal Parliamentary structure

I can also assist with:

- Letters of support for community organisations
- Congratulations for milestone weddings and birthdays
- Flags for service and community organisations

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Yes, I would like to receive “*The Queensland Line*” mailed to the following address

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