

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

The Australian Government is delivering a range of initiatives to help families and businesses get through coronavirus, some of which include:

Support for Individuals

- ✔ **JobKeeper Payment**
A JobKeeper Payment of \$1,500 per eligible employee, per fortnight. This is paid to employers to keep people in jobs.
- ✔ **Coronavirus supplement**
Establishing a new, time-limited Coronavirus supplement to be paid at a rate of \$550 per fortnight to recipients of the JobSeeker Payment and other income support recipients on top of their payment each fortnight.
- ✔ **Stimulus payments**
Two separate \$750 payments to social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders.
- ✔ **Early release of superannuation**
The Government will allow individuals in financial stress as a result of coronavirus to access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation in 2019-20 and a further \$10,000 in 2020-21.
- ✔ **Child care fee relief**
The Government will pay child care services that remain open and do not charge for care to help families to continue working and to ensure child care services keep their workers employed.

Support for Businesses

- ✔ **JobKeeper Payment**
This will help business significantly impacted by coronavirus to continue paying eligible employees.
- ✔ **Increasing the instant asset write-off**
Lifting the threshold to \$150,000 (from \$30,000) and making more businesses eligible to use it.
- ✔ **Backing business investment**
Offering businesses a time-limited 15 month incentive to invest, by accelerating depreciation deductions.
- ✔ **Supporting apprentices and trainees**
Wage assistance to help small businesses to keep their apprentices and trainees.
- ✔ **Assistance to business to keep people in a job**
The Government is providing temporary cash flow support of up to \$100,000 to eligible small and medium-sized businesses, and not-for-profits, so they can keep operating, pay their rent, electricity and other bills and retain staff.

 **For more information on these initiatives visit australia.gov.au**



Phillip THOMPSON OAM MP
Federal Member for **Herbert**

Fighting for Townsville

A MESSAGE FROM PHILLIP

There's no question Townsville is facing the biggest challenge of a generation. The coronavirus has affected every single one of us in some way.

We've been extremely fortunate here in the North to have avoided a major outbreak of COVID-19. That's thanks to the amazing work of all of us adhering to the restrictions and practising social distancing. I'd like to pay tribute to our incredible health professionals and frontline workers who have risked their lives every day to keep us safe and healthy.

Of course with the restrictions has come major economic heartache only a year after our devastating natural disaster. While JobKeeper and JobSeeker have been a godsend for many businesses the effects of the closures have been felt extremely hard.

I will continue to advocate every day for the people of Townsville. I won't stop fighting to see our restrictions eased as quickly as possible - in line with the health advice - to see our economy reopened.

As your Federal Member I will be with you throughout the recovery and am always here to help. If there's ever anything I can do, please don't hesitate to get in touch on the phone, on Facebook or by email.

Phillip Thompson OAM MP
Federal Member for Herbert

ANZAC AT HOME

As a Veteran, Anzac Day is one of the most important days of the year for me. While we couldn't gather together as we normally would, I joined many others in our community on my driveway at dawn to pay my respects to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice on operations in service to our great nation and remember those who have succumbed to their war within back here in Australia.

Thank you to those in our community who are currently serving both here and overseas, as well as their families who make it all possible.



THANK YOU

I have been overwhelmed by the kind messages of congratulations and support for my wife Jenna and I as we welcomed our second daughter into our family - thank you to everyone who sent their best wishes.

Emery Carolyn Thompson was born on the 14th of April weighing in at just over three kilos.

Emery is growing very quickly and her older sister Astin is slowly adjusting to her new role in the family while Jenna is recovering well. Meanwhile my own nappy-changing and feeding skills are in high demand!



Phillip THOMPSON OAM MP
Federal Member for **Herbert**

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📍 340 Ross River Road, Cranbrook QLD 4814 📞 07 4725 2066
✉ phillip.thompson.mp@aph.gov.au 🌐 philthompson.com.au 📺 [PhillipThompsonOAM](https://www.facebook.com/PhillipThompsonOAM)

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TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

Thanks to the hundreds of businesses who participated in the Telephone Town Hall with Assistant Treasurer Michael Sukkar. It was great to have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on JobKeeper directly to the Minister.





16 COMMUNITY GROUPS RECEIVE VOLUNTEER GRANTS

Desperately-needed equipment is on the way for local community groups thanks to the Volunteer Grants program. 16 local organisations have shared in more than \$63,000 worth of funds which will also be put towards paying for fuel and the costs of compulsory training.

It was great to catch up with the Arcadian Surf Life Saving Club who will use the money to buy a new computer system to keep track of their members and run its nippers program.

Triple T Community Radio also play a major role informing and entertaining locals on 103.9 FM. Manager Tee Johnson was very excited to hear his volunteer presenters would be supported with the modern technology they need.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of our community so it's incredibly important to me that they are well-supported.



RECOGNISING OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

It was a privilege to celebrate National Volunteer Week (18 - 24 May) by recognising some of Townsville's volunteers with a Certificate of Appreciation. Thank you for your service to our community.



Dorelle and John Jewell OAM have a combined 70 years of service with the Coastguard and Reef HQ.



Tricia and David Hatfield coordinate the Community Food Pantry in West End for those in need.

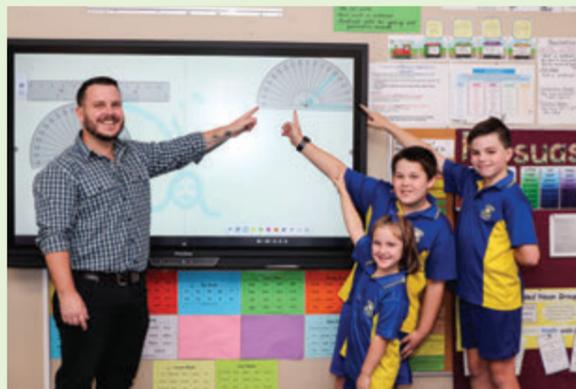


Robert Mara spends many hours a week ensuring the Townsville Mens Shed is running at its best.

SUPPORTING OUR KIDS

Railway Estate State School's interactive whiteboard was installed in May thanks to the Local Schools Community Fund.

The kids are absolutely loving learning Maths, English, Science and much more with this new tech.



AQUACULTURE BOOST

More than 2,000 jobs could be created over the next 10 years in the aquaculture industry, according to a new report developed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia. I'll be working to ensure this great NQ industry thrives.

REEF HQ'S TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

As part of our economic support for the coronavirus recovery we've announced an extra \$2.6 million in funding for Reef HQ. It's the largest living coral reef aquarium in the world, but hasn't had a major upgrade since its construction in the 1980s.

The investment is from the \$1 billion Relief and Recovery Fund and will go towards ensuring the critical systems that control the aquarium environment are upgraded and maintained to support the health and wellbeing of the living exhibits while the aquarium is closed. Temperature, salinity, filtration and water quality systems will be upgraded as part of the works.

These extra funds are in addition to the \$26.9 million announced late last year which will see the major tanks upgraded and the relocation of the famous turtle hospital to a more prominent location.



Construction is progressing well on the \$10.8 million health centre at RAAF Base Townsville.

DEFENCE WORKS WINDFALL

21 projects across Townsville - one worth more than \$8 million - will be available for tender by local businesses throughout the rest of the year.

Defence has brought forward works to upgrade and maintain a number of facilities across Lavarack Barracks, RAAF Base Townsville, Ross Island Barracks and beyond, in a bid to help support our local economy.

I would encourage local businesses to keep an eye on Austender or visit philthompson.com.au/news for more information.

CHINOOK FACILITIES SUPPORT LOCALS

A \$40 million construction project at RAAF Base Townsville is supporting around 400 workers - 90 per cent of whom are locals.

Works are progressing well on the new facilities for Defence's CH-47 Chinook helicopters. The build includes new aircraft shelters, a support facility, working accommodation and tarmac parking for the 5th Aviation Regiment.

This is a welcome boost for Townsville's economy as our community recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm always pushing for our very capable local contractors to be involved so it's great to see that happening with this project.

