



BRIDGET ARCHER MP
Federal Member for Bass

MEDIA RELEASE

9 May 2023

Budget 2023 measures miss the mark

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer has said measures taken in Labor's 2023 Budget tonight do not go far enough to address a number of challenges facing the northern Tasmanian region.

"I think there are positive steps taken towards addressing bulk-billing and the rise of Jobseeker, for example, but they miss the mark," Mrs Archer said.

"Rises in the bulk-billing incentive are a short-term boost but this is not a guarantee that a doctor will bulk-bill and nor does it go far enough in addressing the long-term challenges facing general practices in our region, particularly around the recruitment and retention of doctors.

"Additionally, for northern Tasmanians needing to access mental health services, the Government has not reversed its decision to halve the number of Medicare-funded psychology sessions from 20 to 10, leaving many in our community struggling to afford this essential service.

"As a long-term advocate for raising JobSeeker, the rise of \$40 a fortnight does not go far enough and is in fact, less than the Coalition's increase passed just a few years ago. The proposed rise still leaves many in our community living chronically below the poverty line.

"Aside from the UTAS stadium funding announced a few weeks ago, there is little to be seen on long-term infrastructure investment in our community over the next few years, Local Road and Community Infrastructure spending is decreasing drastically and there is little support for small businesses who are facing an uncertain economic environment.

"The Budget makes for good politics but the substance is thin."

ENDS
