



# MARK COURE

MEMBER FOR OATLEY

## March E-Newsletter

### \$500 Before and After School Care Vouchers

**Vouchers worth \$500 for Before and After School Care (BASC) are now available to parents and carers of children enrolled in a NSW primary school.**

**The NSW Government's \$155 million program for BASC vouchers are now ready to be used** at participating providers to assist families with access to this important service.

The vouchers will be used to cover the parent gap fee component of your BASC session fees.

**Every family with children at a NSW primary school is eligible for one voucher per child, which will mean that each child will be provided with around 60 sessions of free BASC.**

You can access these vouchers via the ServiceNSW app, online or by visiting your nearest Service centre.

## COVID-19 Restrictions

The NSW Government has updated it's COVID-19 settings to reflect the current health situation.

The changes include:

Masks are no longer required indoors except when on public transport, planes, airports, hospitals, aged and disability care facilities, corrections centres and indoor music festivals with more than 1000 people.

QR check-ins will only be required for nightclubs, music festivals with 1000+ people and other high risk areas.

Singing and dancing is also back!

For more information, please click below.

**COVID-19 Restrictions and Information**

**Small Business**



Mark with his wife Adla and oldest son James

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## Lesley Sandilant 2022 Oatley Woman of Year

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**The fantastic Lesley Sandilant was recognised as the 2022 Oatley Woman of the Year.**

Lesley is the President of St George Meals on Wheels, an integral local community organisation which feeds and supports the most vulnerable members of our community. The genuine care and compassion that Lesley shows towards St George Meals on Wheels is one of the biggest reasons why I nominated her. **Lesley embodies the determination, character and strength of an admirable local woman and I want to again extend my congratulations to her.**

**This week is also Women's Week here in NSW.**

This year's theme is **#BreakTheBias** with a focus on empowering women to forge their own path and break through any challenges they may face.

Some of the issues tackled in this year's Women's Week is **increasing women's financial independence, more opportunities for regional and rural women, and promoting careers for women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.**

**Women's Week allows us to celebrate strong, independent women in our lives.** Everyone can

This month is small business month, a time where we get to celebrate the dedication and hard work of our local business owners.

This year's theme is Rebuild, Recharge, Renew.

There are over 8,300 small businesses in our local area, and all of them contribute to our local economy in different and valuable ways.

I am hoping to get to as many local small businesses as I can this month to show my support, so please look out for me and say hello.

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## Premier's Reading Challenge

The 2022 Premier's Reading Challenge is now open!

This year marks it's 21st anniversary.

Last year over 9 million individual books were read with around 440,000 students participating.

I want to encourage all our local school kids to get involved this year as it is a great way to have fun whilst learning.

For more information on the rules of the competition, please click below.

**Premier's Reading**

daughter, grandmother, niece, friend or mentor these women have all had a profound impact on our lives.



Mark with 2022 Oatley Woman of the Year Lesley Sandilant

## Free Menstrual Hygiene Products for NSW Public Schools and My Share The Dignity Drive

**Female students at public schools right across the state will soon have access to free menstrual hygiene products.**

The NSW Government's \$30 million program will make sure female students can participate in all aspects of school life, free from stigma or anxiety.

**This program will provide schools with dispensers, tampons and pads for free and is supporting young women's health, engagement and attendance at school.**

## More Police Officers Hit The Streets

9 new probationary constables will begin their careers at the St George Police Area Command.

Additionally, 5 more probationary constables will be stationed at the Bankstown Police Area Command.

The NSW Police Force recently welcomed a total of 193 new police officers at an attestation at the Goulburn Police Academy in front of recently appointed NSW Police Commissioner Karen Webb.

Class 351 includes 133 men and 60 women, who come from a range of diverse backgrounds.

I want to congratulate these new police officers for successfully completing their training.

Choosing to serve and protect the community is a noble career choice and I am so thankful to see the men and women in blue answering the call for help whenever it is needed.

The NSW Police Force is one of the most respected and most capable police forces in the world and I am sure that these new police officers will continue to uphold that tradition.

## Acknowledging

Getting your period should not be a barrier to

**education.** This fantastic initiative championed by the Minister for Education, Sarah Mitchell and the Minister for Women, Bronnie Taylor will help make our young female students more comfortable at school.

**This month, I have also started up donations for the March Share the Dignity Drive at my office in Mortdale. This charity drive aims to support women and girls across the country with access to sanitary products when they need them most.**

**If you want to donate, please bring your originally packaged menstrual hygiene products to my office at 24 Pitt Street, Mortdale.** Thanks to those of you who have already donated and I hope to see many more donations to come.



Mark at his office in Mortdale supporting Share the Dignity

**Return and Earn Recycles 7 Billion Containers**





As the Member for Oatley, I have the opportunity to speak in Parliament about local groups and individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to our community.

To see a list of those heroes, please click [here](#).



NSW Parliament

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milestone of **7 billion drink containers recycled.**

**More than \$700 million in container refunds have been earned by NSW residents and local charity organisations.** This wide-spread usage has seen a **reduction of 52% in the volume of drink container litter entering our environment.**

**In our area alone, over 50 million drink containers have been returned via the numerous Reverse Vending Machines across the community.**

The Return and Earn scheme has been a tremendous triumph as **more than 78% of adults in NSW have participated in it.** I know that many local residents regularly recycle their drink containers via this method and I am so happy to see our community getting involved.

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Mark at a local Reverse Vending Machine

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