



Kristina Keneally MP

Friday, 11th March 2011

11/3

Mr Tony Harris
Acting Parliamentary Budget Officer
NSW Parliament
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

4.30pm

Dear Mr Harris

I am writing to you to formally request, under Part 4 (Election policy costings) of the Parliamentary Budget Officer Act 2010, an official costing for the following announced policy documents:

- *An Active NSW*
- *Better Public Transport*
- *Bringing tourism and major events to NSW*
- *Championing childhood- A better start for our kids*
- *Celebrating our volunteers*
- *Protecting Jobs*

These policy documents outline our ongoing commitments in key areas of government.

Please find attached a copy of these policies outlining the purpose of the policy and relevant details required to complete the costing as per the requirements of the Act.

Should you require any further information on this request, please contact my office on (02) 9228-5239.

Yours sincerely

Kristina Keneally
Premier of NSW
Leader of NSW Labor Party





Championing childhood: A better start for our kids

March 2011

NSW
Labor

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Championing childhood - a better start for our kids

As a mother, I understand that many parents feel our kids could be missing out on the kind of free and playful childhood that they once enjoyed.

It is true that as the world gets more complex, childhood itself needs champions.

We need to defend the freedom of kids to be kids. And while we need to make sure our kids are ready for their future, we don't want to do this at the cost of them leaving childhood too soon.

To ensure that the great Australian childhood remains, we need to protect the two great supports of healthy children: physical health and freedom to play.

A multitude of activities develop curiosity, exploration, intuition, leadership and self-control. Some of these activities occur in school but many more occur naturally when children have freedom to play and explore on their own terms.

So we've developed better sports fields, regional playgrounds and parks, to give our kids space for this play to happen.

And I'm committed to continuing to give NSW kids a childhood filled with both physical and social development – with great plans for expanding local sports facilities and services across NSW.

We are also creating specialist sports centres for people with disabilities, because some kids face difficult challenges in what should be their golden age, and we want to ensure that an active and free childhood is one that all NSW children come to remember in future.

We will help kids make the healthy choices they prefer by making sure they have healthy food choices, free public play spaces, safe neighbourhoods and clean waterways.

And let's be clear, this is what our children prefer. Even in an age of screen-based entertainment, our kids still prefer to play outside in the sunshine than staring at a screen.



The top two favourite activities of children aged four to 12 years are playing in the yard or in a park; and playing an organized sport. TV and video games come third.

So while times have changed, children have not. They want to be active and healthy – and are looking to us to support that.

That is what this policy is all about, and through these initiatives we can ensure that the positive experiences we had as kids will continue for children right across NSW.

Kristina Leneally

What this policy means for our community

A re-elected Keneally Government will continue to champion a better childhood for our kids.

The Labor Government will ensure that our kids have every opportunity to enjoy their youth as well as every opportunity to play and grow in a natural and healthy environment.

In a practical sense, this will mean trialling outdoor education programs and vegetable gardens in our public schools.

It means continuing to fund local sporting programs and clubs.

It means providing surf life saving and Nippers with \$8 million over four years for the upgrade of their facilities.

ACTION:

Outdoor education

- A re-elected Keneally government will engage a leading Outdoor Education specialist such as Outward Bound or Scouts and Guides to develop and deliver an Outdoor Education curriculum for year nine.
- A \$450,000 program will be trialled in three schools in the Hunter, Illawarra and Western Sydney to assess its impacts on student development, behaviour and performance – and if successful expanded to other schools.

Everyone Can Play – funding local sport facilities

- A re-elected Labor government will continue our program of funding for local sports facilities.
- Labor will provide Surf Life Saving and Nippers with \$8 million over four years to upgrade to NSW surf life saving facilities.

Eating Well for Life

- Where once canteens snacks were treats, pre-prepared food is more often a regular part of children's diet
- Guidelines for school canteens will be continuously improved to encourage healthy eating and good habits for life.

Vegetable gardens for school

- A re-elected Keneally government will build additional vegetable gardens and kitchen facilities at nine schools to allow kids to grow, prepare and learn about healthy food from the ground up.
- Kids can embrace healthy foods and active learning through growing and cooking their own food.

Our Challenges

Kids and Parents want different things but also have a lot in common. Our challenge is to support both kids and parents with the information and services to achieve their aspirations for a happy, safe and fulfilling childhood.

Both kids and adults agree that children are missing out on too much of their childhood.

Modern technologies are embraced by children for the opportunities they offer to learn, play, engage socially and explore their world. But they are also significant in pushing children into the adult world at a younger age.

We need to let kids be kids.

Labor's plans for outdoor learning, more and better sports facilities and regional parks will ensure our kids have plenty of opportunities to get outside in the fresh air for healthy play.

Our Record

LABOR

- \$2 million expansion of Better Futures program for community based youth activities such as Midnight Basketball.
- Built vegetable gardens and healthy eating kitchens in government schools serving disadvantaged communities.
- \$29.5 million towards the development of over 1300 local and regional level sport and recreation facilities.
- \$1.65 million on over 230 not-for-profit and local government sports programs which seek to increase regular and ongoing participation opportunities.
- \$1 million directed to more than 280 programs that improve opportunities for young people with a disability to participate in sport and physical activity.

OPPOSITION

- No policy released

Outdoor education

- A re-elected Keneally government will engage a leading Outdoor Education specialist such as Outward Bound or Scouts and Guides to develop and deliver an Outdoor Education curriculum for year nine.
- This trial will be evaluated by a leading children's play and learning specialist based on outcomes for students, teachers and parents. The trial is for kids in all communities but we will be particularly interested in the impacts on kids in highly urbanised neighbourhoods where the requirement is greatest for additional opportunities for outdoor skills, play and development.
- The introduction of Outdoor Education for NSW high schools will provide opportunities for improving self confidence reinforce school learning, peer bonding and support as well as managed risk taking within a supervised environment.
- This will help young people develop leadership skills and improve their confidence. This will affect their overall academic performance at school.

ACTION:

- Trial and evaluate the personal and educational benefits of outdoor education for kids in NSW

Eating Well for Life

- Labor will continue the *Fresh Tastes @ School* strategy to support all schools with a canteen to go healthy adopt the Red, Amber, Green food spectrum guidelines.
- This is complemented by our mandatory labelling for fast food menus to encourage families to incorporate treats in moderation and help to ensure that fast food is kept within healthy limits as part of a balanced diet.

ACTION:

- Continue to raise the standard of nutrition in public schools and support healthy choices for kids

Everyone Can Play

- A re-elected Labor government will continue our long standing program of funding for essential local sports facilities.
- This includes the Sport and Recreation Participation Program to develop the skills of sporting volunteers and increase participation in sport across NSW.
- In addition, Labor will support Surf Life Saving and Nippers with \$8 million over four years in upgrades to NSW surf life saving facilities.

ACTION:

- Roll out more facilities and grants for sporting clubs so kids across the state can join local games
- Refurbish Surf Life Saving Clubs

Learning to eat well through vegetable gardens

- A re-elected Keneally government will build additional vegetable gardens and kitchen facilities in nine schools. This will allow kids to grow, prepare and learn about healthy food from the ground up.
- The Schools that will receive new vegetable gardens and kitchen facilities include:
 - Plunkett St Public School
 - Randwick Public School
 - Erskineville Public School
 - Lewisham Public School
 - Riverwood Public School
 - Melrose Park Public School
 - West Ryde Public School
 - Marayong Public School and
 - Willmot Public School.
- This program will get kids outside, in the fresh air, sunshine and dirt, learning how to grow and eat food that will keep them strong and healthy for a lifetime.
- Kids can embrace healthy foods and active learning through growing and cooking their own food.

ACTION:

- Build nine additional vegetable gardens and kitchen facilities in schools across NSW



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