



Media Release

Amanda Rishworth MP Federal Member for Kingston

BETTER ACCESS TO FAMILY PAYMENTS

Amanda Rishworth MP, Federal Member for Kingston today welcomed the commitment that a re-elected Gillard Labor Government will improve access to family payments.

Ms Rishworth said “This move will help families cope with cost of living pressures, particularly for large and unexpected household expenses.

“The Gillard Labor Government understands that many families are struggling to manage the household budget.

“Unexpected expenses can cause big headaches – for example, when the washing machine breaks – and many families are forced to use credit cards or take out a loan.”

Ms Rishworth said that arrangements for advance payments of family tax benefit entitlements will now be simplified and made more flexible, including:

- From 1 July, families can receive a larger advance on their family tax benefits or around \$312 for a family with one child under 12, or \$625 for a family with two children under 12.
- From 1 July parents of new babies who receive the Baby Bonus will also be able to receive \$500 of their payment upfront.

Ms Rishworth said “The Gillard Labor Government understands that families are doing it tough and facing cost of living pressures.

“But Tony Abbott’s Coles and Woolies tax would push up the price of groceries, petrol and electricity.

“The choice is clear – between Julia Gillard who will help families with cost of living pressures, and Tony Abbott who would add to family grocery bills.”