



Amanda Rishworth MP

Member for Kingston

Child support reforms to affect local residents.

On July 1 this year the final stage of the Child Support Scheme Reforms will be implemented, marking the next significant phase in the growth and development of the scheme.

These reforms will affect many local residents, with over 6,330 people in Kingston being involved with the Child Support Agency (CSA) to provide support for their children.

“This is a fairer and more balanced system that more accurately reflects the costs of raising children” said Ms Rishworth.

“Child support exists to make sure children have the support they need to get a decent start in life” said Ms Rishworth.

“The new formula will better reflect the actual costs of raising children, take account of the fact that older children cost more, treat both parents’ incomes and living costs equally, and make sure that children from first and second families are treated more equally,” said Ms Rishworth.

Since being established by the Hawke government in 1988, the Child Support Scheme has played an enormous role in improving the living conditions of Australian children.

During the 1970s it was recognised that children from separated families were often suffering a loss of living standards because one of their parents was no longer contributing financially.

“Since the start of the scheme in 1988, the CSA has assisted parents to pay \$25.6 billion in child support obligations to help support their children,” said Ms Rishworth.

The July 1 reforms include a new formula to calculate Child Support payments, as part of the most sweeping changes to be made to the scheme since it first began.

Local parents who want more information can contact the CSA on 131 272 or visit the scheme reforms website at www.csa.gov.au/schemereforms

