THE HON AMANDA RISHWORTH MP
SHADOW PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH
MEMBER FOR KINGSTON

MEDIA RELEASE

$40 MILLION RIPPED FROM DENTAL PROGRAM CLEAR BROKEN PROMISE

The Prime Minister has broken his promise to the Australian people and slashed millions of dollars in funding from the health budget.

Yesterday’s MYEFO documents reveal the Government has ripped away $40 million in funding to improve access to public dental health and assist graduate dentists gain valuable professional experience.

The funding was axed from the Voluntary Dental Graduate Year Program which places dental graduates in public dental facilities across the nation, ensuring that these facilities are adequately staffed.

"Not only did the Voluntary Dental Graduate Year Program provide improved access to dental services in the public system, it also ensured graduate dentists gained extra professional experience and support through a structured program," Ms Rishworth said.

“Tony Abbott now needs to explain how the Coalition Government is going to attract dentists to areas of need, especially in our public dental system.

“He also needs to explain which of the 36 dental services that were set to host the Program in 2014 will have their funding cut,” Ms Rishworth said.

The funding for this Program was budgeted for and included in the Pre-Election Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

The Coalition’s election policy costings document clearly says:
“There are no cuts to education, health, defence or medical research.”

[Coalition Final Update on Federal Coalition Election Policy Commitments - 5 September 2013]

This is a clear broken promise from the Prime Minister. This is not the Government they told the Australian people they would be.

WEDNESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2013