



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THE HON DANNA VALE MP



Dear Friends,

There is a time and tide in the lives of us all, and it is with some sadness that it is time for me to say goodbye to you and your family and to thank you for the honour of serving you in Canberra as your local Federal Member of Parliament these last fourteen and a half years.

Together we have come a long way since you elected me in 1996. At that time Australia was a very different place. John Howard and the Liberal Party were elected to office and immediately started to pay back Labor's \$96billion debt. As I pointed out in my farewell speech to the Parliament, Australia's economy is sound today because of those tough decisions made by the Howard government and Peter Costello's legislation that imposed those strong prudential rules that now underpin Australia's banking system.

I was proud to be on team during those golden years when the Howard Government paid back the debt; maintained reduced interest rates; kept inflation low; stopped the criminal people traffickers and their deadly leaky boats, and most importantly, allowed Australians to enjoy a greater degree of prosperity for ourselves and greater opportunity for our children.

Locally, we had some important wins too. Together we were successful in our community campaign against the Holsworthy airport proposal. We secured Kokoda Field plus \$750,000 for its development for the Moorebank Sports Club located on the other side of Harris Creek; and we stopped the cabinet discussion to put a nuclear waste reprocessing plant at Lucas Heights; and we saw the establishment of the Australian Radiation Protection and Safety Agency as an independent oversight authority, to name a few.

Very soon, you and I will be facing another important choice for the Australia of our future. Whether we will be able to maintain secure borders and stop racking up debt and wasting good money on knee-jerk programs that are aimed at headlines rather than sound policy objectives, is up to us and the choices we make at the next election.

In the meantime, please accept my warmest thanks for the support and friendship many of you have given me over the past 14 years. It seems to me that all the very best people in Australia happen to live in my electorate. My husband Bob joins me in wishing you and yours good health, happiness and prosperity in the future. I have always been mindful of the honoured responsibility you entrusted to me to serve you and your family in the Australian Parliament. I thank you for the privilege.

Thank you for the memories,

DANNA VALE, MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HUGHES
1st July 2010