



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party



MEDIA RELEASE

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Grimley Backs Reducing Unemployment in Maryborough

Stuart Grimley, Member for Western Victoria has voiced his support to reduce the high unemployment plaguing the Central Goldfields Shire.

Mr Grimley met with Shire administrators last week and was shocked to hear that unemployment is currently over 8% in some areas and youth unemployment is up to 18%; up 2% from this time last year.

Parts of the Central Goldfields Shire have ranked in the nation's top 20 areas for high rates of youth unemployment.

Mr Grimley, who has spent much of his adult life living in remote areas of Australia, attributed these high rates to a lack of collaborative strategy between all levels of Government, inadequate educational opportunities and limited transport options in the area.

The current transport system in Maryborough does not currently accommodate for '9-5 workers', with only one train going into and from Ballarat daily in sync with the school timetable.

However, the Member for Western Victoria praised the 'Go Goldfields' program which was developed by the local Council in response to poor social cohesion and an effort to improve the lives of the Shire's children, families and businesses.

Mr Grimley said he hoped that with strong advocacy and a clear strategic plan, there would be stronger economic growth and an increase in employment in the region.

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"Go Goldfields is a great initiative and I am looking forward to seeing the positive results for employment in the region.

There is no doubt that a lack of transport options is holding employment back – I will be advocating for investment into transport including expanding the bus network to the Andrews Government.

You have regional areas like Colac which are screaming out for workers and then you've got Maryborough and surrounds which is screaming out for jobs; there is no 'one size fits all' approach here.

I am especially happy that a Family Violence Action Network has been established through the Go Goldfields program, as this is often where intergenerational welfare dependence can take place. Combating family violence is a necessary step to supporting our next generation."

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