



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor Sees Positives And Negatives In Reshuffle

The Independent Member for New England, Mr Tony Windsor, commented on Prime Minister Howard's cabinet reshuffle, saying on the whole he felt the reshuffle to be positive, although he expressed some regrets over the well-deserved elevation of Ministers such as Kevin Andrews who have been effective Ministers for crucial regional portfolio's and will be missed in these former roles.

Mr Windsor said, "I welcome the return of the Health & Ageing Portfolio to the House of Representatives and I feel that Tony Abbott has the intelligence and tenacity to tackle the issues that will elevate this portfolio to the most crucial for our country in the next decade".

"The Prime Minister has recognised the compassion, logic and hard work applied by Kevin Andrews to his current portfolio of Minister for Ageing by moving him onto the Inner Cabinet in the Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio. Kevin Andrews has been a Minister who has shown a willingness to grapple with regional issues and I am sure that Julie Bishop will be an effective replacement and I welcome her to the Ageing Portfolio".

"The Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio is one that is vital to regional Australians and I am pleased to see Senator Alston replaced by Daryl Williams who will bring a more reasoned and negotiable approach to the portfolio and this will be a welcome change from Senator Alston's combative approach."

"Finally, I would like to wish Wilson Tuckey the best, and recognise him again for his help as Minister For Regional Services, Territories and Local Government in contributing to the electorate in providing regional solutions funding and particularly for his recent partial funding of the Bundarra Aged Care facility," Mr Windsor concluded.

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