



# SENATOR THE HON MARK ARBIB

Minister for Employment Participation

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Government Service Delivery

## David Bradbury MP

Federal Member for Lindsay

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### Joint Media Release

# Wait almost over for St Marys South Public School's new hall

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Government Service Delivery Mark Arbib and Member for Lindsay David Bradbury today inspected construction of St Marys South Public School Building the Education Revolution projects.

Senator Arbib and Mr Bradbury joined school representatives to tour construction on the school's \$2 million hall and refurbishments funded under the \$125,000 National School Pride grant.

Senator Arbib said the projects were part of the Rudd Government's \$42 billion Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan to support jobs, stimulate local economies and invest in important school infrastructure.

"This is the largest school modernisation program in Australia's history and is supporting jobs in the St Marys community," Senator Arbib said.

"St Marys South Public School has been in desperate need of a school hall for many years. The stimulus funding has ensured St Marys students will have first class facilities to match their first class education.

"Looking around the school I can see fantastic progress has been made. I am looking forward to returning and seeing the finished product in the near future."

Long-time St Marys resident Norma Thorburn sent her children to the school more than 40 years ago and had been trying to get a school hall built ever since. Now a life member of the P&C, and secretary of the school council, Mrs Thorburn's four decade wait is almost over.

"I'm very excited that we are finally getting a hall for our school community," Mrs Thorburn said.

"Ever since I sent my children to St Marys South Public School more than 40 years ago, we have been raising funds to try and build a hall.

"Now my grandchildren attend the school and thanks to the stimulus package they will be able to enjoy this brand new hall."

Mr Bradbury has seen the community's fundraising events for St Marys and is pleased the Rudd Government has been able to make the project happen.

"St Marys South Public School has been fundraising for many years to build a new school hall. Thanks to the Building the Education Revolution funding St Marys is finally able to deliver an important piece of local infrastructure," Mr Bradbury said.

"Not only is this school project beneficial to the future education of children in Western Sydney, it has supported local jobs in the area."

Senator Arbib challenged Liberal Party politicians and candidates to view projects like the St Marys Hall and explain to the parents and students why they claim the projects are "a collection of rubbish".

"Comments like this from the Opposition's Infrastructure spokesman show just how out of touch the Liberal and National Parties are when it comes to the needs of local schools and the importance of supporting jobs," Senator Arbib said.

"For Senator Joyce to call projects like this "ridiculous" is an insult to the school community which had been fundraising to build a hall for so long."