

Swan slams school cuts

FORMER TREASURER WARY OF FUTURE PLANS FOR MEDICARE

Kara Sonter

FEDERAL Labor MP for Lilley and former Australian treasurer Wayne Swan has taken a swipe at the Australian Government over last night's Budget.

Mr Swan (pictured) said he was "pushing for Medicare not to be pulled apart", following a six-year freeze on Medicare rebates which resulted in "more and more"

doctors not bulk billing.

"What they haven't announced is how (the Government) intend to get out of a bind on Medicare."

But it was the Government's looming cuts to education under Treasurer

Scott Morrison he described as "dreadful".



The Budget revealed an extra \$18.6 billion in extra school funding but many schools would see cuts.

"We've already seen that they still intend to dud schools," Mr Swan said.

"The government under Mr (Tony) Abbott had very

large cuts and the cuts are still continuing."

Mr Swan said the 40-odd schools in the Lilley electorate were standing to lose an average of \$2.4 million each while big business holds \$50 billion in corporate tax cuts.

"The pre-Budget news has been terrible for young people already," he said.

Other items announced last night included \$5.5 million for an awareness campaign with a focus on anti-

vaxxers as well as Family Tax Benefit A reductions for each child who is not vaccinated.

There will also be an extra \$55.7 million spent on community legal centres and

\$350 million spent on veterans' mental health.

The Budget also saw about \$4.1 million allocated over the next four years to secure an organ donation program that was due to expire this financial year.

A new multimillion-dollar war chest to fight terrorism was also established.

An extra \$321 million was also announced for the Australian Federal Police.