



## Senator Claire Moore

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2018**

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Women Labor Senators

### THIS WEEK:

On Thursday, the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people delivered its report.

Our First Nations Labor members Pat Dodson, Linda Burney, and Malarndirri McCarthy, with Warren Snowdon, released a statement committing our party to work with First Nations people to make the key principle of the Uluru Statement from the Heart - a constitutionally enshrined Voice to parliament, a reality; this includes a pathway to a referendum.

Winning a referendum will take leadership, courage, and most definitely genuine partnership across our nation.

The [full report](#) is available on the parliament website, and it is an important document for all of us.

December 1 is World Aids Day and my office has the signature red ribbon displayed to acknowledge this international day of remembrance of those we have lost, as well as the many people living with HIV, and to affirm our commitment to continue to research a cure and to fight stigma and isolation.

I wear a special red ribbon, beautifully woven, which was given to me by a lovely woman in a clinic in South Africa.

She was caring for her grandchildren, after her daughter and her daughter's partner died in the terrible epidemics which so devastated her country. Her courage, grief, and resilience will always be with me and keep alive the important message of World Aids Day.

This week in the Senate, the President needed to remind all senators about the need to behave with respect and professionalism in our workplace. The interactions across the chamber, personal attacks and aggressive comments reached a ridiculous level early in the week, with Senator Di Natale, Leader of the Greens, being suspended from the Senate after he refused to withdraw a comment, calling Senator Barry O'Sullivan 'a pig'.

While this may seem childish, it reflected a series of distinctly inappropriate exchanges, and allegations of bullying.

While the Senate has detailed Standing Orders to regulate our routine we have responsibility to the people who have elected to us to maintain a respectful, though 'robust' workplace. Check out the [Hansard](#) to read the statements from leaders about the process.

Also you may remember our recent story about Clementine the miniature horse savaged by dogs, well we have almost managed to raise the funds to keep her safe in future – we need a little more help – see her progress in our Glimpses section.

SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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## WHAT'S BEING SAID ...



### **MORRISON GOVERNMENT – SHORTEN- CANBERRA**

*"This is a government who has given up governing now."*

### **MORRISON GOVERNMENT- BOWEN- CANBERRA**

*"Now the biggest contribution that Scott Morrison has made since becoming Prime Minister is having two less Liberal MPs."*

### **MORRISON GOVERNMENT -CHALMERS- SKY NEWS**

*"The Government's lost legitimacy; it's lost its majority. I think Australians have rightly concluded that they're in it now for themselves, as Julia Banks said, and not for the Australian people. They're a shambles."*

### **MORRISON GOVERNMENT -WATTS- ABC RADIO 774 MELBOURNE**

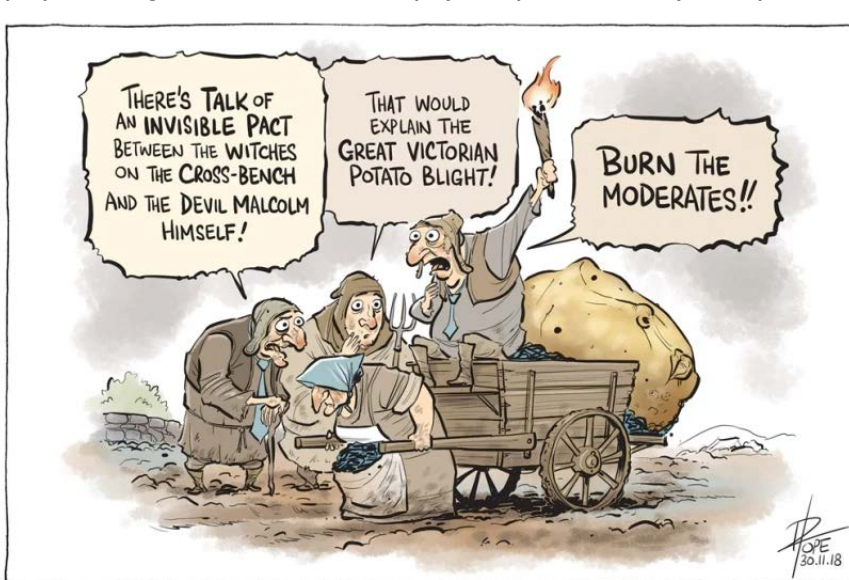
*"Scott Morrison has the bully pulpit of the Office of the Prime Minister. Why is he not providing more leadership?"*

### **MORRISON GOVERNMENT - BOWEN-ABC-RN BREAKFAST**

*"It's clear every day the lack of legislative agenda, the chaos, the lack of a clear plan for Australia and they are just utterly and entirely focused on their own short-term survival. There is no long-term vision for the country; there is no thinking about the future. It's just how do we get by day by day? Which Liberal is leaving? Do we have the numbers? It's really the most dysfunctional Government we have seen in living memory."*

### **MORRISON GOVERNMENT -CHALMERS- SKY NEWS**

*"You've got Liberals wandering around the building today talking to Labor people about how they don't think that they'll even make it to the Budget, which is supposed to be on the 2nd of April. And that just gives you an anecdotal sense of the sort of chaos that reigns over there. Can we afford to continue to give in the dividend imputation case almost \$6 billion away in these tax loopholes, which overwhelmingly favour people with high balances? Or would we prefer to spend that money on hospitals and schools and TAFEs and apprenticeships?"*



### **MORRISON GOVERNMENT - BOWEN - CANBERRA**

*"The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has run out of agenda, run out of policies, and is focused on itself and its own dysfunction."*

### **MORRISON GOVERNMENT - DREYFUS ABC TV NEWS 24 BREAKFAST**

*And what are we offered by contrast? A divided rabble from this Government, who can't even answer the simple question of why Malcolm Turnbull is not now the Prime Minister of Australia. Scott Morrison goes from bad to worse every day, ranting and shouting in the Parliament, ranting and shouting at press conferences, and I think the Australian people will see the very, very clear choice that we are presenting to them at the next election.*

### **MORRISON GOVERNMENT - BURKE – ABC RN BREAKFAST**

*Previously they've cancelled Parliament, a full week*

*of Parliament, when they were worried we were going to get a Banking Royal Commission over the line. They cancelled Parliament again because their own chaos said we can't even face a Question Time and now they've decided for next year they won't even say it's going to sit in the first place*

*If a Government is afraid of having the Parliament sit you've really got to wonder who's running the country.*

### **MORRISON GOVERNMENT - ALBANESE - 5AA ADELAIDE**

*"What's clear is that the Government themselves are saying they're incapable of governing. They don't have an agenda. And if they had any self-respect they would put themselves and importantly the Australian people out of their misery and call an election."*

### **MORRISON GOVERNMENT - RISHWORTH – CANBERRA**

*"What I would say is that the Liberal Party has done nothing to actually advance the prospects of women."*

### **VET SECTOR SHAMBLES - CAMERON – CANBERRA**

*"Labor announced a comprehensive review of post school training back in February and I have got absolutely no confidence in any review that the Coalition does into the VET sector. This is a government who has cut \$3 billion from the VET sector since they were elected. There are 140 000 fewer apprentices now. They cut \$270 million from apprenticeships in the last budget and they are appointing a New Zealand former Tory Minister to conduct the review. We are being advised by the OECD that we don't have the skills and the capacity to actually engage in global value chains and this is after five years of Coalition incompetence. They couldn't even deliver a new apprentice computer system. They spent \$24 million on that system and had to abandon the system completely."*

### **CORPORATE CRIME - O'NEILL – CANBERRA**

*"Last night, the Morrison Government came into the Parliament and voted against a Labor proposal to increase jail times for the worst corporate crooks, and to increase maximum financial penalties for big companies that break Australian law.*

*Hearing Kelly O'Dwyer stand up in Parliament and say that the Liberal Party is the natural home of Australian women was one of the most ridiculous statements that has ever been made in the Australian Parliament. Particularly on a day after one of their own female MPs told us that she got bullied out of her own party by people who don't want to see women in the Liberal Party. It is absolutely ridiculous."*

### **AGED CARE - COLLINS – OPINION PIECE IN MAGAZINE ‘HELLO CARE’**

*“Since 2013 the Government has had the reigns of Labor’s Living Longer Living Better reforms. In five years this Government has turned exciting reform into a crisis that’s evolved under its watch.”*

### **LABOR’S SCIENCE POLICY - CARR- CANBERRA**

*“We want to ensure we have a scientific foundation to build prosperity, to build opportunities for all Australians. What we have seen in previous times with this government is that a war has been launched against our scientific community – whether it be in climate change, whether it be in energy policy, whether it be on basic things like the growing gap in inequality in Australia.”*

### **FRANCHISING - O’NEILL- ABC NEWS 24 – THE BUSINESS**

*“Within the franchising structure, there is a tale of two completely different outcomes. Franchisors with extraordinary wealth, and franchisees having lost everything. There is something fundamentally wrong with that outcome. We are seeing hundreds of franchises fail.”*

### **PARLIAMENTARY DECORUM - WONG - SENATE SPEECH**

*“We will not tolerate sexist and abusive behaviour. We will not tolerate it in the Senate and we will not tolerate it anywhere.”*

*“When it comes to treatment of women in this place there are some who should particularly reflect on their actions and their words. I ask them to consider whether their partners, wives or daughters would permit themselves to be treated in such a demeaning and offensive way.”*



### **O’SULLIVAN - BUTLER- ABC RADIO - ADELAIDE**

*“I’m going to veer into the personal, despite what Simon says - this man is a pig. He’s a particular offender but he’s not the only offender in the Senate. I think all of us are getting sick to death of Sarah having to put up with this. I completely get why Richard did what he did and behaved the way he did yesterday.”*

### **PARLIAMENTARY DECORUM - ALBANESE – CANBERRA**

*“And then we saw the gross discourtesy of the Prime Minister and other ministers yesterday walking out straight after Question Time even though Dr Kerryn Phelps was giving her first speech to the Parliament, having won a by-election with an enormous swing away from the Government. Showing contempt for the voters of Wentworth as well as showing, quite frankly, just a lack of manners – just bad*

*manners, when they walked out of the Parliament.”*

### **CAMPUS HARRASSMENT - PLIBERSEK- ABC NEWS 24 BREAKFAST**

*“One of the reports that we saw a few years ago from the Australian Human Rights Commission said that just over half of all university students had experienced sexual harassment in the course of a year. So, there’s about a million students at our universities - that’s about 500,000 people - who had experienced harassment. And about seven per cent had experienced sexual assault - that’s 70,000 had experienced sexual assault. These numbers are enormous.”*

*“This task force can recommend financial penalties to either the university standards body, that’s called TEQSA, or to the Government, if we’re elected. And as a final result, or as a last recourse, we could withhold funding. It’s not my intention to do that easily or lightly, but that is a last resort.”*

### **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REVIEW - WONG – SENATE SPEECH**

*“To sit on this report, and to deny Australians a mature and informed debate, shows utter contempt for the people we are supposed to be representing. The Government is seeking to hide this report. Why? Because of its internal division. The sole reason and primary reason the Government is hiding this report is because it so divided it fears the impact this report will have on its own unity, or lack thereof.*

*The news that the Morrison Government was considering legislative change to entrench discrimination against LGBTIQ students was shocking to a large number of Australians.”*

### **ADANI - PLIBERSEK- ABC NEWS 24 BREAKFAST**

*“I think it’s very telling that no bank wants to invest in this, no business wants to invest in this. Most of them understand that we have gone beyond peak demand for coal globally. I am sceptical that this, despite yesterday’s announcement, that this project will continue.”*

### **DUTTON’S ELIGIBILITY - BOWEN - CANBERRA**

*“Now the person who should refer Peter Dutton to the High Court is Peter Dutton, now we have court cases where people, criminals, are claiming that Peter Dutton’s constitutional ineligibility means that their deportation was invalid. I mean this is how serious it is. We asked Scott Morrison about it yesterday and he was arrogant in his dismissal and went straight to cheap partisan politics. This is about the integrity of deportation and the border protection system.”*

### **SOCIAL SERVICE GRANTS - MCCALLISTER- CANBERRA**

*“I wanted to make a few remarks about Mr Fletcher and his administration of the Department of Social Services Grants. The Minister has completely bungled this process and it is becoming clearer every day that he is entirely out of his depth. Yesterday, he confirmed a fifth backflip in just a fortnight. Mr Fletcher has now indicated that the financial counselling services will not be given just an extra three months but in fact an additional 12 months of funding. Mr Fletcher has been forced to change the arrangements for the National Debt Helpline. He’s been forced to change the arrangements for Foodbank. He’s been forced to change the arrangements for the Emergency Relief Grants and now on two occasions, he’s been forced to backflip on the arrangements for financial counselling.*

*This is a joke. It’s obvious that the Department is in complete chaos and Mr Fletcher is simply not handling it.”*

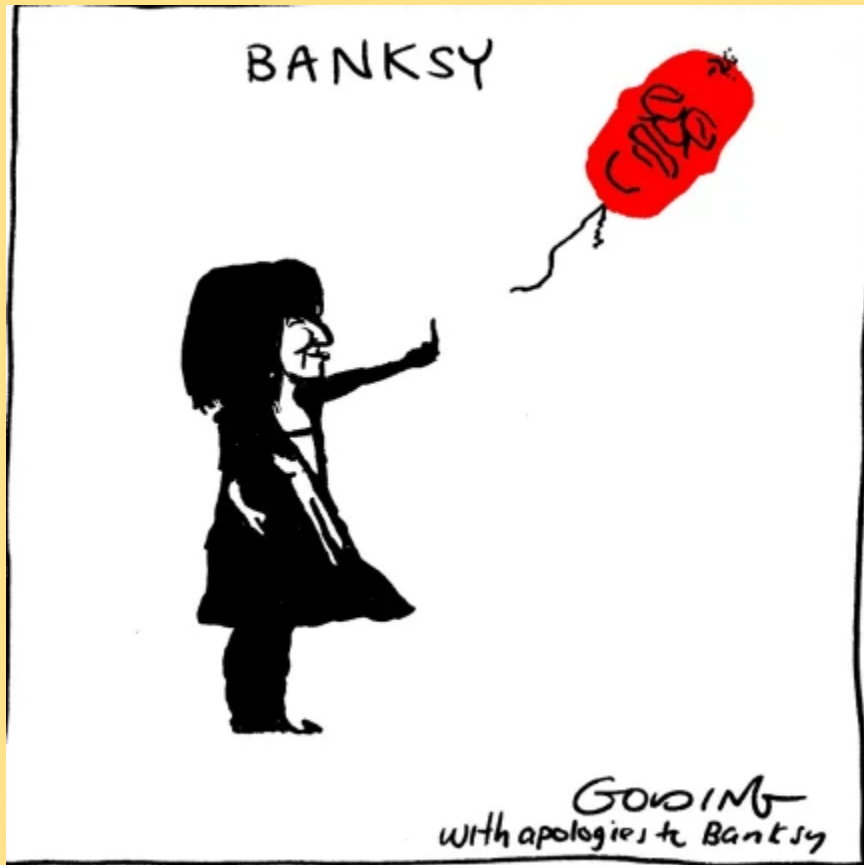
### **NATIONAL INTEGRITY COMMISSION – JONES- CANBERRA**

*“Well with over 4,700 reports of corrupt incidents across the Australian Public Service the Prime Minister can no longer contend that a federal anti-corruption body is a fringe issue.”*

### **NATIONAL INTEGRITY COMMISSION -BERNARDE KEANE (Crikey)**

*“Scott Morrison’s claim yesterday that a national integrity body is a ‘fringe issue’ should haunt him all the way to his political grave. The Prime Minister likes to deride issues he’s not comfortable with as emanating from the ‘Canberra bubble’, but dismissing Australians’ growing belief that the political system doesn’t work for them but for special interests is the ultimate example of a politician trapped inside a bubble, disconnected from reality.”*

## QUOTES OF THE WEEK



*This week all quotes come from Coalition members as printed in that champion of Neo-Conservatism – ‘The Australian’ newspaper.*

*"Homophobic, anti-women, climate-change deniers" – Kelly O'Dwyer describing the Liberal Party following its defeat in the Victorian election.*

*"They know we are being taken over by the crazies." -- Scott Ryan (Liberal Federal MP talking about Victorian Liberal voters who have walked away from the party)*

*"The reactionary right-wing ... coup ... aided by many MPs trading their vote for a leadership change in exchange for an individual promotion, preselection endorsements or silence ... Their actions were undeniably for themselves, for their position in the party, their power, their personal ambition, not for the Australian people who we represent" – Julia Banks on resigning from the Liberal Party*

*"It was Mark Twain who said "Only fiction has to be credible." But ‘The Australian’ satirists outdid Orwell with their editorial today headed "Turnbull moderates blow up a centrist government." A centrist government was blown up in August and it wasn't done by moderates." – Malcolm Turnbull*

*"The Morrison Government is utterly wrecked and now the Liberal Party itself risks splitting. In fact it's splitting already." - Andrew Bolt*

*"This means that not only does our product stink, it stinks to our own people," - Greg Mirabella (Victorian Administrative Committee member and husband of former Federal Liberal MP Sophie Mirabella)*

## GLIMPSES

### CHRISTMAS SCAM

*A 'robot' threatening legal action is calling Australians in a new phone scam in the lead up to Christmas, police have warned.*

*Sydney residents have reported receiving concerning phone calls and messages threatening legal action and arrest if the receiver does not call back, which police say is a scam. Sharing a recording of the robotic message to Facebook on Monday, Sydney officers warned residents to be vigilant.*



The message tells the receiver a "lawsuit case is getting filed under your name" and urges them to ring the phone number 6102 0472. The message then threatens that the receiver will be arrested if they do not return the call.

Police are urging people not to do so.

"Don't let it ruin your festive season, but most importantly DO NOT CALL BACK," the Kings Cross Police Area Command warned. "No-one will contact you in this way to warn you about 'lawsuits in your name'. The caller can't 'issue a warrant' or 'get you arrested'." Police confirmed that legitimate businesses and government agencies do not do business in this manner.

### **DON'T VIAGOGO**

Labor is leading a campaign to shut down infamous ticket re-seller VIAGOGO

Email your negative interactions with Viagogo to [stopviagogo@lunaticentertainment.com](mailto:stopviagogo@lunaticentertainment.com) by next Wednesday.

Australian concert tour promoter Michael Chugg, who heads Chugg Entertainment, a touring agency that promotes major artists such as Florence + The Machine and Hozier, said Viagogo needed to be stopped as it had disgusting scalping practices.

"The site is ripping the fans, the bands and the artists off by over-charging and half the time they don't have even have tickets to sell and in some cases they're selling tickets that are fraudulent," Mr Chugg told The New Daily.

"We're in a situation now where we have five people turning up to an event who have paid about \$400 each for the same fraudulent tickets and they can't get in. People are just left distraught and in tears because of this shameful behaviour."

Mr Chugg said Google needed to work with the Australian government to remove Viagogo from the search engine. "Google needs to act now and take them off the search engine," he said.

"We're continuing to warn our database and VIP members to book directly through the official websites, but people are still getting sucked in to Viagogo."

Jeannie Patterson, a consumer protection expert and associate professor at Melbourne Law School, said scalped tickets were resale tickets where the seller had no intention of attending the event, motivated purely by profit.

"Australians are being ripped off and penalised for buying massively marked-up tickets. And scalping websites are getting away with it," Dr Patterson told The New Daily in July.

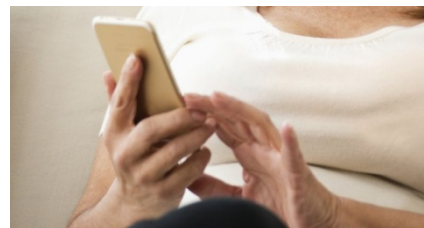
"No legitimate business or agency will have you pay in Bitcoin, or iTunes cards, or anything similar," the police warned, saying methods such as these were "a low trick to target the vulnerable".

"Let your friends and family know to ignore calls like this."

What to do if you're being scammed:

Police remind the public to take the following precautions to reduce the risk of being scammed by cold-callers:

- If you receive a threatening phone call (and demanding money), hang up immediately;
- Do not disclose personal details to the caller;
- Never provide your personal or banking details to a person who calls you;
- Never provide your financial PIN or account passwords to anyone;
- Do not make any payments to the caller, either via phone, internet, or cash;
- If you are suspicious about the credentials of a person on the phone, ask questions of them. If they avoid answering or refuse to provide information, hang up;
- Don't let scammers pressure you – scammers use detailed scripts to convince you that they're the real deal and create a high-pressure situation to make a decision on the spot;
- If you think you have provided your account details to a scammer, contact your bank or financial institution immediately; and
- Contact police immediately to report the incident.
- To find out more information about scams or other ways to protect yourself, visit [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au).



If you have been the victim of a scam, you can report it to local police or to the ACCC online at the ["SCAMwatch report a scam" page](#) or by calling 1300 795 995.

### **HARASSED AND BEATON UP**

People with disability or a long-term health condition were more likely to have experienced physical violence compared with people without disability or a long-term health condition, according to new figures released today from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2016-17 Personal Safety Survey.

Stephen Collett, Program Manager for Education, Crime and Culture Statistics, said: "The survey results show that 5 per cent (or 288,700) of people with disability or a long-term health condition experienced physical violence, in 2016, compared with about 4 per cent (or 531,300) of people without disability or a long-term health condition".

"The survey also shows that the proportion of people with disability or a long-term health condition who experienced physical violence varied across different disability types.

"For example, almost one in eight people with psychological disability and intellectual disability experienced physical violence in 2016, compared with one in twenty people with physical disability," he said.

#### **Sexual harassment**

The PSS also collected information about men's and women's experiences of selected types of sexual harassment. The survey showed that people with disability or a long term health condition experienced sexual harassment at a higher rate than those without disability or a long-term health condition, 15 per cent compared to 13 per cent.

"This disparity was more prominent for younger Australians. "The survey found that two in five people (43 per cent or 172,400) with disability or a long-term health condition in the 18-24 age group reported experiencing sexual harassment in 2016. This was almost double the proportion of people without disability or a long-term health condition in this age group (24 per cent or 433,000 people)," Mr Collett said.

### **SCORCHER**

Australia looks set to experience another angry summer, with the Bureau of Meteorology's latest outlook indicating the next three months are likely to be hotter than normal.

"Unfortunately, what's considered 'normal' is being turned upside down as a result of climate change," said the Climate Council's acting CEO, Dr Martin Rice.

"Climate change is cranking up the intensity of extreme weather events and Australia is particularly vulnerable. We know climate change is making the current drought worse," he said.

"Many Australians are asking about the link between the catastrophic bushfires currently burning in Queensland and climate change. We know climate change is increasing the incidence of extreme heat and making heatwaves longer and more frequent, leading to a higher bushfire risk in Queensland," said Dr Rice.

"This creates many challenges for us. We are going to need more resources to fight and manage fires," said Dr Rice.

Today's outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology finds the chance of an El Niño forming is 70 percent, roughly triple the normal risk. An El Niño typically brings drier and warmer conditions to eastern Australia.

"Australia's greenhouse gas pollution levels have been consistently rising for three years, while the Federal Government had failed to roll out any credible climate policy. This needs to change in order to reduce our risk of exposure to extreme weather events" said Dr Rice.

"We still have a window of opportunity to act, but it's rapidly closing."

### AND GETTING HOTTER

The Australia Institute analysed the Government's most recent quarterly update on Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. The Government's own figures show Australia's emissions continue to rise every year;

- the Government's own figures show that it will miss the Paris Target unless it introduces substantial new emissions reduction policies. There is a shortfall in the year 2030 of 128 million tonnes, and a total shortfall of 888 million tonnes between 2020 and 2030;
- while it is true that Australia met its first Kyoto commitment and is on track to meet its second Kyoto commitment, these targets were achieved without reducing Australia's absolute emissions;
- while it is true that emissions per capita are falling, Australia's Paris Target is not set in per person terms. Australia's target is set in terms of absolute emissions;
- 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030 is itself an insufficient target for Australia to do its fair share towards the global goals of the Paris Agreement.



### Podcast ([listen here](#))

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has repeatedly claimed Australia will meet its Paris commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030 'in a canter', but is this true?

As we approach the next United Nations climate negotiations in the Polish town of Katowice, the Australia Institute's director of Climate & Energy Richie Merzian and senior economist Matt Grudnoff unpack the myths and cut through the rhetoric.

### CORRUPTION

The Coalition is facing an internal rebellion by National Party MPs over plans for a new anti-corruption regime unless it protects ministers from being targeted over infrastructure grants made against bureaucrats' advice. Some MPs were shocked this week when the minority government waved through a motion calling for a national integrity commission without a debate in the Coalition party room. Now National Party MPs have said they will oppose the scheme unless Attorney-General Christian Porter ensures it would not allow ministers to be fingered for corruption if they ignored departmental advice and approve grants for projects in rural or regional areas.

### NOT WORKING

The announcement this week that the Morrison government has cooked the parliamentary sitting schedule should not come as a surprise. This hapless bunch doesn't want their disharmony, disunity and dysfunction on public display.

By shutting down the Parliament they are seeking to become a small target for voters.

"Next year the parliament will sit for only ten days in the first eight months of the year. We've now had it confirmed from House of Reps there has never been an eight month period with only ten sitting days. That's never, they've checked back to 1901." - **Tony Burke**

Once you factor in the return of writs after the election and the time it takes for a new government to get settled, it's likely Parliament will not sit again until next August. It is the last straw - without policies, without direction, without any vision not turning up for work has only one consequence - You're fired!!

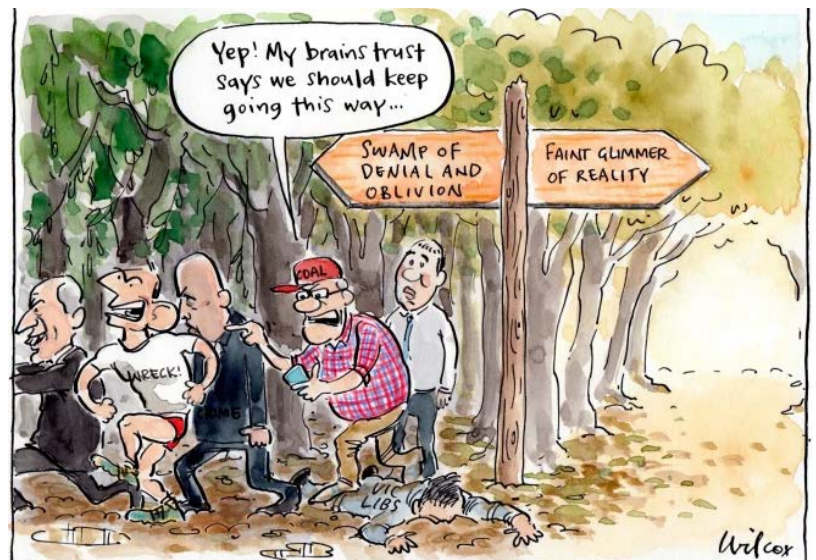
### POOR OLD ANZ

ANZ was shown to be a laggard among an Australian banking system that was woefully slow in reporting legal breaches to regulators and remediating customers. Counsel assistant Rowena Orr quoted from an ASIC report that found Australian banks had taken an average of 1517 days, or over four years, to identify and report legal breaches in dealings with customers.

The commission also heard banks took an average of 150 days after beginning investigations to lodge a breach report with regulators when the Corporations Act demanded this happen within 10 days.

Ms Orr pointed out that ANZ was "an outlier" here as well. ANZ took an average of 198 days

ANZ will have to compensate two million customers who have been over charged or ripped off in some way, the financial services royal commission has heard. CEO Shayne Elliott told the commission on Wednesday that "if we look at all remediations that are underway, the total number of accounts affected is approaching two million".



Some of these customers had been remediated already and some would be double counted because they had been hit by more than one legal breach, but overall Mr Elliott said compensation would total "in the hundreds of millions of dollars".

And they're way behind in making the payments.

Perhaps we should sell 'em up!??

### BIG BROTHER GETS BIGGER

The government's draconian [Telecommunication and Other Legislation Amendment \(Assistance and Access\) Bill](#) purports, inter alia, to give the government the power to order IT device makers, software manufacturers and operators of apps and platforms to plant malware on and otherwise interfere with phones, tablets and computers in order to intercept consumers' data before it is encrypted or after it is decrypted. Such malware would be a bonanza for hackers, organised crime and terrorists, potentially rendering vast numbers of devices unsafe or opening the way to ransomware attacks like the 2017 WannaCry attack that originated with malware stolen from the National Security Agency.

Unfussed by the absurdity of proposing to undermine the basic tools for a safe, commerce-friendly internet in the name of security theatre (given virtually all terrorists are already well known to security agencies), the government is putting pressure on the Intelligence and Security Committee to dismiss the concerns expressed by civil society groups, legal groups, government bodies and some of the world's biggest IT companies and finish off its inquiry into the bill.

### ALSO BIG

In the relentless contest of "world's biggest animals", a 194cm-tall (6'4") Aussie bovine has dramatically raised the steaks.

Residing on a property at Myalup, Western Australia, the seven-year-old Holstein Friesian steer is more than twice the size of the other cows in his herd. Its size has saved it, being too big, too heavy for the local abattoir Knickers as its known will live out its life in a paddock of plenty.



### HELPING CLEMENTINE



The Miniature pony Clementine who was viciously attacked by dogs in the morning on Monday 5th of November 2018 is making a good recovery even if she now sticks very close to her friend Charlie the Clydesdale. Thanks to the generosity of people \$25,641 of the \$30,000 goal was donated by 113 people in 23 days. So just over \$4000 to go so we can build Clementine a fence to keep the dogs out!!

**Every little bit will get us there Just Click and follow to donate.**

[View Updates](#)

Some recent footage of Clementine and Charlie for you to enjoy

[https://www.facebook.com/WINNewsToowoomba/videos/279109026280423/Uzpf\\$TMxNjk3NTI1NTUyNDoxMDE2MTI3MjQyMzNTUy](https://www.facebook.com/WINNewsToowoomba/videos/279109026280423/Uzpf$TMxNjk3NTI1NTUyNDoxMDE2MTI3MjQyMzNTUy)

### WE DID SAY IT WAS THE SILLY SEASON

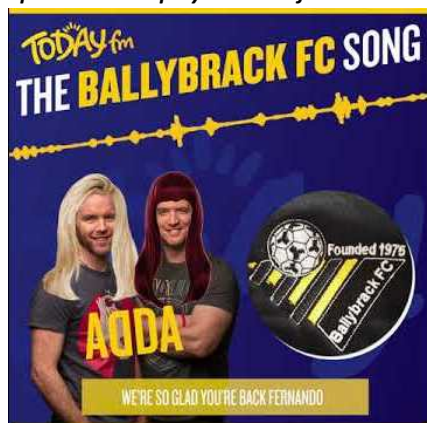
An Irish amateur football team has issued an apology for a "grave and unacceptable mistake" after it falsely reported that one of its players had died last week.

A Spanish soccer player whose former club in Ireland faked his death in an apparent bid to avoid a match has said he learned of his demise from work colleagues.

Fernando LaFuente

"I was home yesterday after my work finished. I was playing some video games. Suddenly I got a call from work and they said what's happened. They told me, 'you're a celebrity'.

"They started sending me all these news articles and mass media. And that's how I found out I was dead."



Ballybrack FC was due to play Arklow Town in the Leinster Senior League, but the match was postponed after Ballybrack reported one of its players, Spaniard Fernando Nuno la Fuente, had died in a car crash.

The news saw all teams in the league hold a minute's silence before the start of their matches, with players donning black armbands.

The league and some clubs even tweeted condolences to the player and his family.

But the league has since confirmed that it learned the player was not dead, and was back in his native Spain.

### FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES

[This week Prime Minister Morrison attacked school students who planned to go 'on strike' and march to demand the Government do more to counteract the rapidly approaching nightmare of Climate Change. Imogen Viner a Grade 10 student from the Woodbridge School in Tasmania responded with this letter to the PM.]

Dear Prime Minister Scott Morrison,

Congratulations on your recent appointment to this position- but forgive me if I do not share in your celebrations. You see, I am preoccupied at the moment. I've been thinking about the future, my future, the future of my classmates, my school friends, and my community and how this differs from the one I'd like to live. For what I'm seeing on the news, what I'm hearing from politicians is terrifying.

What has especially caught my mind is your response to Adam Bandt's question on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, regarding students going on school strike. In your response, you stated 'we don't support the idea of kids not going to school for things that can be dealt with out of school.' But Prime Minister Morrison, what I and thousands of other students around Australia are protesting is the lack of action on climate change. We are protesting by leaving school because it is not being dealt with out of school. We are protesting in the only way we can, because we cannot vote yet, nor can we take up politics and fight our own cause. We are striking because we are terrified for our future. Can I tell you a story, Prime Minister Morrison?

When I was nine, I was terrified of the news, especially the stories of climate change. I was so terrified; I would run from the room, hiding under my doona until the stories stopped. But despite running from the articles, the documentaries and more, I still couldn't sleep at night. I could not see any way that my future could be anything but bleak. As I grew older, my heart grew harder, until I could at last be in the same room as the stories. But, in the furthest recesses of my brain, I was still terrified. I would attend protests with my parents, but I would still block out the words, would still think of anything but this. It was not until this year, and I am fifteen Mr Morrison, that I could bear to take a stand alone. This year I have become a member of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, and of the Student Climate Action Network, and I have grown so much.

Prime Minister Morrison, like more than half of Australia's population, I have never known a year with temperatures classified as 'average'. Indeed, you have only known four. When I was born in 2003, the average global surface temperature was 0.61 degrees Celsius above average. In 2016, it reached 0.99 degrees Celsius above average. Prime Minister Morrison, I am sure that you and I both want the Great Barrier Reef to remain a national landmark for centuries to come. But I know that to do so, we need to cap temperature rise at 1.5 degrees. We no longer have a margin of error, Mr Morrison. We, as a globe, need to stop using coal for electricity by 2030 to save our reef. That is only 12 years, Mr Morrison, and yet you plan to allow the Adani Carmichael Coalmine to go ahead, an enterprise run by one of the most corrupt



organisations in the world. One that has already lied to the Australian Government and will do so again. Prime Minister Morrison, when you think of the future, what do you see? Do you see a happy, healthy population, ever growing its capacity, able to partake in our favourite pastimes of beach going and cricket? Do you see children able to swim in the Great Barrier Reef and marvel at its colours, or go skiing in the Snowy Mountains, or just muck around in the local creek? Because what I see, what I've seen since I was nine, is suffering. Suffering from droughts, from floods, from fire, from famine. Houses falling into the sea, whole nations inundated, the poor by far the worst hit. It's not fair Mr Morrison. They are not responsible for the millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide, but they will pay the price. So will we, Mr Morrison, the youth of Australia, and the youth of the world- we will pay the price of your inaction. There is one more thing I see in the future, Prime Minister Morrison, one light amidst the gloom. And that is young people themselves, taking a stand for

what they believe in. Young people willing to sacrifice their education, a basic human right, for action on climate change. Young people taking an interest in politics, taking an interest in the workings of the world, and making their mark. For we are the future, Mr Morrison.

In your response, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, you said that you 'do not support our schools being turned into parliaments.' Prime Minister Morrison, I can tell you that my classrooms are not parliaments, though as I look around me, I see many potential politicians. But what disturbs me is that I do not see a single person who wishes to be a politician. This is not a reflection of interest in politics, for I know many who are interested in what becomes of our future. No, this is a reflection on what we have been shown a politician's role to be: one of arguments and backflips and lack of achievement. But especially one of universal hatred.

Prime Minister Morrison, you say that you want 'more learning in schools and less activism in schools' but it is only through activism that our learning is put to good use. For Prime Minister Morrison, answer me this: what is the point in preparing for a future we won't want to live? Prime Minister Morrison, on Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> of November I will walk out of school to protect my future. I will strike because what I see done to protect against climate change pales in comparison to what we are doing to strengthen it. I will strike because the lack of meaningful climate policy means we cannot possibly meet the Paris Agreement Targets set in place to protect my future. I will strike because despite your Snowy Mountain Hydro Scheme, your Australian Renewable Energy Agency, your Clean Energy Finance Corporation, I remain unconvinced that this government is serious about this threat. I will strike because despite your proclamations, your government has helped to place thousands of children like me in position where we are so depressed about our future, we must abandon our education in an attempt to make liveable our future.

And Prime Minister Morrison, rest assured that in three years' time, when I am eighteen, I will not shirk my civic duty, nor will the thousands of students striking this week. We will vote, and we will vote for a future worth living.

Imogen Viner

Grade 10

Woodbridge School, Tasmania



## QLD FIRES



**Bill Shorten - STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: QUEENSLAND FIRES - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, CANBERRA - WEDNESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2018**

*Last night, as rain drenched Sydney and fell here in Canberra, 80 fires have been burning across Queensland.*

*Premier Palaszczuk has described these fires and the extreme heatwave, wind and storm conditions as unprecedented.*

*All-time records have been shattered from Cooktown to Gladstone.*

*So, I wanted to say, on behalf of the parliament and the Australian people, we are thinking of Queensland and Queenslanders today.*

*We are thinking of everyone who's been evacuated from their home, or those making the hard decision to leave.*

*We're thinking of the local brigades – the last line of defence - that have been on the job since last week.*

*The Wartburg, Agnes Water and Captain Creek Rural Fire services, working around the clock, supported by other regional fire services.*

*But in particular, I want to mention Baffle Creek. It is a little town like so many others in Australia. There's a general store and petrol station, a bait and tackle shop, a café, a real estate agent and a pub.*

*And their volunteer brigade has been fireside for five straight days, defending the place they love.*

*The Gladstone Regional Mayor, Matt Burnett told me this morning that today is the 'crunch point' for Baffle Creek.*

*The fire is heading to Coast Road and if Coast Road is blocked, people will be trapped.*

*We salute the courage of all the volunteers and the courage of those coming from interstate to lend a hand.*

*They are the best of Australia. Standing together, helping each other.*

*And they are in our hearts today.*

## FIRST PEOPLE

### TIME TO UNITE BEHIND A VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE – Burney/Dodson/McCarthy/Snowdon

**In May 2017, 250 First Nations leaders met at Uluru and called for a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament.**

After more than a decade of debate about what form Constitutional Recognition should take, representatives of First Nations people described what it looked like to them. They told Australia that while the 1967 referendum meant they were counted, the next referendum should ensure they were heard.

The [Statement from the Heart](#) is one of the most significant documents produced in the history of Reconciliation and, from day one, Labor has been determined to accord the Statement proper respect and thorough consideration.

If elected in 2019, a Shorten Labor Government will move quickly to agree a process together with First Nations people to make the Voice a reality – including a pathway to a referendum.

Labor supports a Voice. We support enshrining it in the Constitution. This is our first priority for Constitutional change.

We thank the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People for their work. Labor senators and members have sought agreement where possible, despite the Government's persistent rejection of the Voice.

Twelve months ago when Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull dismissed the proposal for a Voice out of hand, Labor promised to continue to work with First Nations people to make it a reality.

This report is part of that process. But we acknowledge there is more work to be done. **We recognise that winning a referendum will require leadership. It will require courage. It will require encouraging all Australians to make the unfinished business of reconciliation their own.**

If we work together in a genuine process of partnership, we can unite the Australian people and make a Voice for First Nations people a reality. We urge the Government to drop its needless opposition to this proposal, ditch the misleading scare campaign about 'third chambers' and work with Labor to get this done.

We are prepared to work with the Government, but we will not wait for them. It is time to work together to meet the challenge laid down in the Statement from the Heart.

Labor will work in partnership with First Nations and the broader Australian community to achieve that.

And we will seek to bring that same spirit of partnership to Closing the Gap and to establishing a Makarrata Commission for agreement-making and truth-telling.



## **LABOR TO ESTABLISH A VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE – Shorten/Burney/Dodson/McCarthy**

**A Shorten Labor Government will establish a Voice for First Nations people, and seek the support of the Australian people for that Voice to be enshrined in the Constitution.**

Reports that Labor is walking away from our commitment to a Voice are nonsense.

We support the Voice. We support enshrining it in the Constitution. It is our first priority for Constitutional change.

When 250 First Nations Leaders convened at Uluru last year and called for a Voice to Parliament, Labor heard that call.

In government, we will work with First Nations to make it a reality.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People will deliver its report on Thursday. Labor is proud to have three Indigenous MPs on that committee. Nobody can doubt Labor's commitment to Constitutional reform. We acknowledge the work of the many First Nations groups, academics and legal experts who made submissions to the inquiry outlining their views on the best way forward.

It has been 10 years since the issue of Constitutional recognition was first raised. First Nations people have made clear that their preferred form of meaningful recognition is a Voice to Parliament. We cannot ignore those calls.

It is disappointing that the Coalition continues to peddle lies about what the role of a Voice would be.

A Voice would not be a third chamber of parliament. It would be a mechanism for First Nations people to have a greater say in the policy issues that impact on their lives.

We have nothing to fear from working with First Nations people to address the many complex issues that affect the first Australians.

Labor has made clear that we will work with the Government, but we will not wait for them.

If bi-partisanship cannot be reached, we will look to legislate a new body as a first step on the pathway to enshrining it in the Constitution.

We will move quickly following the election to agree on a process with First Nations people – including a clear pathway to a referendum. We will also work with them in establishing a Makarrata Commission for agreement-making and truth-telling.

This will be a genuine process of government and First Nations working together to achieve meaningful change.

We will examine options for ensuring local, regional and national representation so that First Nations communities have a genuine say.

The Coalition has consistently failed to properly engage with First Nations people on important policy issues – leading to a litany of policy failures in Indigenous Affairs.

Whether it is the disastrous Indigenous Advancement Strategy, Community Development Program or the Close the Gap Refresh, only by working with First Nations people can we fix the legacy of failed policies left by this government and achieve a more equal, more reconciled Australia.



## **LABOR TASKFORCE TO CRACK DOWN ON UNI SEXUAL ASSAULT - Plibersek/Pratt**

**A Shorten Labor Government will give new independent taskforce strong powers to crack down on sexual harassment and assault at universities and residential colleges.**

Penalties may be imposed on universities that fail to take serious action to protect their students. In extreme cases the education minister could even withhold government funding.

All universities will have to publish data on sexual harassment and assault to improve transparency and better track progress.

The taskforce will provide policy leadership and advice on evidence-based prevention measures, track action by universities, and recommend ways responses can be strengthened.

Recent investigations have found disturbingly high rates of sexual harassment and assault at universities and residential colleges.

More than half of university students were sexually harassed in 2016. Only 13 per cent of campus sexual assaults are reported to universities.

Some residential colleges have a particularly poor record. That's why residential colleges will be captured by the taskforce too.

Good work is being done through Universities Australia's *Respect Now Always* initiative.

Many universities have taken action and are making progress. But right now we have an opportunity to drive major, long-term change to put an end to this appalling behaviour for good.

The independent taskforce, to be chaired by an eminent Australian, will be made up of experts in sexual assault prevention and response. It will be supported by the university standards body, TEQSA, which will have its operations beefed up with a \$1.8 million funding boost.

There have been repeated calls for an independent taskforce to hold universities and residential colleges to account.

In April this year, I wrote to the Liberal education minister urging the Government to establish one.

It is disappointing the Liberals have rejected these calls and refused to work with Labor on this important issue. They are turning their backs on vulnerable students, victims, and survivors of sexual assault. The taskforce will be set up for a three year period and will provide annual progress reports and recommendations followed by a major report in 2022.

## **REMOVAL OF ANTI-DISCRIMINATION EXEMPTIONS FOR LGBTI KIDS - Dreyfus**

**Labor will introduce a Private Members Bill to remove exemptions in the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* that allow religious schools to discriminate against LGBTI students.**

The government promised to resolve this issue before the end of the year, but they've not achieved that. Given the government's refusal to proceed with a simple removal of the relevant exemptions, Labor will seek to do it for them.

Labor's bill will be a simple removal of relevant exemptions from the Act. Labor does not believe that additional measures that expand the grounds for indirect discrimination for religious schools, as proposed by the government, are necessary.

I will write to the Attorney-General later today, urging the government to join Labor in support for this bill.

In the week before the Wentworth by-election, the Prime Minister promised to remove exemptions that relate to LGBTI students. He has failed to achieve that goal.

Labor wants this done before Christmas. The public expects this. The depth of public reaction to leaked elements of the Ruddock review showed

**Authorised by Senator Claire Moore, Australian Labor Party, 421 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006.**

that Australians want these exemptions removed, and as soon as possible.

Once again, Scott Morrison has said one thing, but done another. He has failed to follow through on his commitment to protecting children against discrimination.

There is support across the Parliament on this issue. There is no reason why it cannot be progressed and resolution achieved over the next two weeks.

Evidence gathered by the Legal and Constitutional Affairs committee over the past fortnight shows that overwhelmingly religious schools do not use these exemptions, and do not want them.

The committee's recommendation was that **the Australian Government amend section 37 and remove subsection 38(3) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984. Labor will progress that recommendation.**

*Extraordinarily, a group of coalition Senators dissented from that recommendation – apparently rejecting the pledge made by their Prime Minister and the legislation put forward by their Attorney-General.*

Labor also remains committed to the removal of exemptions relevant to LGBTI staff in religious schools. We recognise – as did the committee – that this is a more complex proposition which requires consequential amendments to other legislation such as the *Fair Work Act*. Labor pledges to progress this issue.

As per the recommendations of that committee, Labor thinks it appropriate that the Parliament consider inserting in law a positive affirmation and protection of religious freedom in Australia that is appropriately balanced with other rights. Labor calls on the government to progress this, and to release the Ruddock Review into religious freedom without further delay.

The removal of exemptions in the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* that relate to discrimination against LGBTI students in no way jeopardises the ability of religious schools to operate their schools according to the tenets of their religion.

Schools will continue to regulate the behaviour of their children through school rules, as they have for decades. Labor has had constructive dialogue with both LGBTI groups and religious educational institutions, and will continue to engage with these groups over coming weeks.

## THE LAW

### GOVERNMENT VOTES AGAINST STRONGER CORPORATE PENALTIES – Bowen/Clare O'Neil

**This week, the Morrison Government built on their appalling record of voting against a Royal Commission into the Banks 26 times – this time voting against Labor's amendments to crack down on corporate crime, including higher jail sentences for the most serious corporate crimes and higher fines for misconduct.**

Here's to the Great Aussie Stayers!

No matter the impropriety  
the scandal  
the conflict of interest  
the breach of parliamentary guidelines  
the corporate malfeasance  
the evidence  
the damage  
the victims  
the actual guilty finding  
They just won't step down.



The horror stories flowing out of the Royal Commission are just sickening. This corporate lawbreaking has to stop. That's why Labor moved amendments to the Morrison Government's proposed Corporate and Financial Sector Penalties Bill last night to significantly toughen the penalties for misconduct.

Labor voted to increase jail time for the most serious corporate crimes from 10 to 15 years imprisonment – because the Parliament needs to send a message that this kind of conduct is totally unacceptable. Labor's proposal would have brought our penalties for the most serious corporate crimes into line with comparable non-corporate criminal offences at the state level. The Liberals voted against this.

Labor also voted to remove the Morrison Government's proposed \$210 million cap on penalties. If big business breaks the law, the courts should be able to impose a 10 percent penalty on them just like any other business. The Liberals voted against this.

The big banks have made billions of dollars from their misconduct – and Labor believes the penalty that they receive should match the crime. The Liberals shouldn't be giving big business preferential treatment when they break the law.

Scott Morrison voted against a Banking Royal Commission 26 times, fighting its establishment for an incredible 600 days. Last night, he doubled-down on his protection racket for the big banks by voting against Labor's tougher penalties and higher jail times.

The Liberals are divided, out of touch and only for the top end of town. They simply have no interest in cracking down on corporate crime.

A Shorten Labor Government will not tolerate corporate misconduct. We believe corporate crime should be treated just as seriously as any other crime.

Labor called for the Banking Royal Commission, Labor fought for the Banking Royal Commission, Labor wants stronger penalties for corporate misconduct and Labor will work day and night to protect Australian businesses and consumers from misconduct in the financial services sector.

### ALRC MOVE TO BRISBANE - Dreyfus

**This week, hidden at the bottom of a press release from the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Nationals about regional decentralisation, the government announced the Australian Law Reform Commission would be moved to Brisbane.**

The Australian Law Reform Commission, which undertakes comprehensive reviews of our legal system and makes important recommendations for improvements in policy, has already lost six full-time employees, leaving them with a total of just 12.

Now, under the false pretence of decentralisation, the government is apparently planning to move the organisation from Sydney to Brisbane, with no detail about how many jobs will be lost in the process.

Has the coalition not learned from its APVMA disaster?

Can this government seriously pretend that Brisbane is a regional centre, and not a major metropolitan city? What is the real reason for this move? Is it purely coincidental that the current President, appointed by the coalition, lives in Brisbane?

The Attorney-General – who is meant to be responsible for the ALRC, not the National Party – must immediately explain the motivations behind

this decision. He must reveal how much this move will cost the taxpayer, and how many jobs will be lost. The ALRC is a vital institution which has been treated recklessly by this current government.

## GOVERNANCE

### **LIBERALS IN CHAOS ON NATIONAL INTEGRITY COMMISSION - Dreyfus**

**Monday's farce over a National Integrity Commission is more proof of how divided, chaotic and out of touch Morrison and his Liberals are. The Government started today opposed to a National Integrity Commission.**

Then they voted for it in the Parliament.

Then Mr Morrison said the Government was only "considering" it.

Then he called it a "fringe issue".

It's clear Morrison and the Liberals only voted for a National Integrity Commission because they have lost the numbers in the Parliament.

Mr Morrison leads a divided and chaotic minority government which has lost its legitimacy.

If Morrison and the Liberals really supported a National Integrity Commission, they would accept Bill Shorten's offer for a bipartisan process to see one established.

Mr Morrison has form when it comes to being out of touch with what Australians want – he voted against the Banking Royal Commission 26 times.

If Morrison continues to block a National Integrity Commission, a Shorten Labor Government will make it law.

### **THE GOVT MUST NOT TAKE A CENT MORE IN FOREIGN DONATIONS – Farrell/Leigh**

**With the passage of the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill, foreign money will finally be out of Australian politics.**

Prime Minister Morrison must now immediately instruct Liberal and National party officials to stop accepting foreign money.

Not a cent more.

There must be no delay, it can and must be done today.

Labor voluntarily chose to refuse foreign donations long ago.

The Liberals and Nationals continued to accept foreign money for two whole years, as they progressed political donation reform at a snail's pace. Despite taking two years to reach this stage the government has fumbled this reform at every step, introducing legislation that also hit charities, not-for-profits, advocacy groups, and churches.

The Liberals and Nationals delayed action, tried to hijack the real issue and use it to silence their critics, and all the while continuing to accept foreign donations.

Now the foreign funds must finally stop.

Labor is proud to have continually fought for improved transparency and greater accountability in Australia's political donations system.

We took a clear donation policy to the last election and, guided by our commitments, we will continue to push further reform.

Labor recognises the need to improve transparency in the political system and will continue to consult widely to establish a real time disclosure regime and move to reduce the donation disclosure threshold from \$13,800 indexed to inflation to a fixed \$1,000 as a priority.

## WOMEN

### **LABOR TO GIVE FUNDING TO KEEP WOMEN SAFE AT HOME –Shorten/Plibersek/Burney**

**A Shorten Labor Government will reverse the Liberals' cuts to a program which helps women who have experienced domestic violence remain safely in their own home, and commit to a new 10 year plan for reducing violence against women and their children.**

Labor will invest \$18 million over three years to 2021-22 to ensure that *Keeping Women Safe In Their Homes* continues, after the Government confirmed it was cutting funding for the program.

This program provides practical help for women and their children in their homes, allowing them to live safely away from perpetrators through:

- Expert safety assessments and safety planning;
  - Home safety upgrades and devices, such as new locks, alarms, cameras and safety phones;
  - Screening for bugs to ensure privacy; and
  - Supporting women in enforcing Apprehended Violence Orders.
- Everyone deserves to feel safe in their home. Women should not have to choose between their home and their safety. Neither should their children.

Yet, this is not the case for many women who have left violent or abusive relationships.

Women are more likely to experience violence from a man they know, [often in their own home](#).

Women should be able to end violent and abusive relationships as safely and as quickly as possible – this as an immediate and urgent priority and Labor is determined to match our words with practical measures like this.

*A New 10-Year National Plan*

Labor also recognises that cultural and structural change is imperative in preventing family violence in the long term.

This magnitude of change can only be brought about by strong and sustained leadership, at all levels.

Labor will ensure that preventing family violence remains in the nation's focus by developing a new 10-Year National Plan and pushing this important issue on the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) agenda.

A new National Plan will serve as a timely reminder of the complex and pervasive nature of family violence, and that we all have roles and responsibilities in its prevention – federal, state and local; government and non-government; families and communities.

The development of this plan will be guided by a National Plan Advisory Group, replacing the advisory panel axed by the Abbott-Turnbull-

Morrison Government.

It will feature and bring together the perspectives and energies of a diverse cross-section of the community – from academics and experts, those working in frontline services, to women with lived experience of domestic violence.

A Labor Government will begin work on a new National Plan with urgency.

Preventing family violence requires strong leadership and genuine commitment – Labor is determined to lead on this.

## ECONOMY

### FALINSKI FOLLOWS FRYDENBERG IN LIBERAL PARTY SCARE CAMPAIGN- Bowen

In an embarrassing interview with Sky News, Backbench Liberal MP Jason Falinski tried his best at running the scare campaign that has consumed Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg lately: misrepresenting Labor's sensible reforms to dividend imputation. He quickly fell flat on his face .



In just two minutes, Falinski made four statements, all of which are flat out wrong.

**1. Mr Falinski claimed that pensioners and part pensioners are not exempt from the policy:**

*"Labor has now clarified that the retiree tax will apply to pensioners and part-pensioners"*

**WRONG.**

The Pensioner Guarantee means pensioners and allowance recipients will be protected from the abolition of cash refunds for excess dividend imputation credits when the policy commences. Self-managed superannuation funds with at least one pensioner or allowance recipient before 28 March 2018 will also be exempt from the changes.

**2. He then went on to claim that the Pensioner Guarantee was announced quietly at 'midnight':**

*"It wasn't in a media release, it was in relation to an answer to a question"*

**WRONG.**

It was announced at a [press conference](#) with Bill Shorten, Jenny Macklin and myself in March this year, along with an accompanying [media release](#).

**3. He made the stupefying claim that the policy would simultaneously raise revenue and cost revenue:**

*"There is a large amount of doubt that this \$50 billion tax on retirees will actually ever be collected" and "It's highly unlikely that they will raise any money, in fact it might end up costing the budget."*

**WRONG.**

Independent Parliamentary Budget Office analysis shows that the policy will save \$10.7 billion over the election forward estimates and \$55.7 billion over the medium term

We will leave Mr Falinski to explain how something can raise money and at the same time cost the Budget.

**4. Finally, after being asked by Labor's Patrick Gorman to pick which scare campaign he wants to run, he said:**

*"This is not a scare campaign"*

**WRONG.**

It is. A pathetic one. Jason Falinski will need time to brush up on his scare campaign tactics before being allowed to try again.

### LIBERALS OUT OF EXCUSES FOR DEBT BLOWOUTS – Bowen/Chalmers

With billions of dollars of revenue pouring in due to a booming global economy, Scott Morrison and his Liberals have no excuses for more than doubling the nation's debt, a new report has confirmed.

Deloitte Access Economics, in its latest Budget Monitor, has outlined the state of the global economy ahead of the Liberals' mid-year Budget update, due within the next month:

*"The rivers of gold are running, with the good news for revenues coming thick and fast. The world is growing at the fastest rate seen since 2011."*

But even with the rosy global backdrop, the Liberals have racked up record debt and left the Budget in a far worse state than they inherited it from Labor, which had a Global Financial Crisis to contend with.

The Liberals' own figures show that, on their watch, net debt has more than doubled to hit a new record high of \$354.5 billion and gross debt has crashed through half-a-trillion dollars for the first time ever in the nation's history.

Instead of using the surging revenue from this global upswing to help pay down their record and growing debt, the Liberals would rather give tax handouts to those who need them least.

The Liberals are repeating the fiscal recklessness of the profligate Howard-Costello Government by baking in unaffordable, permanent income tax cuts at the expense of the fiscal buffers needed to prepare for another downturn.

Deloitte warned against the Liberals' reckless approach, saying:

*"The oldest mistake in the budgetary book is to take the good fortune of the moment – with revenues sprinting much faster than the economy – and assume that will keep happening."*

The Liberal Government has thrown out its budget rules and is no longer putting improvements in revenue towards budget improvement, but is engaging in heavy spending increases.

Deloitte also makes it clear that *"the heavy lifting of Budget repair lies in revenues"*.

Labor has made the tough policy calls and been upfront about the need for structural Budget repair, and how we'll go about achieving it fairly and responsibly.

Because of our responsible approach, we've been able to commit to delivering bigger surpluses over the forward estimates and substantially bigger surpluses over the medium term.

Labor will not only invest in the things Australians value, such as schools, hospitals and infrastructure, but we'll also ensure the Liberals' debt is paid down.

## EDUCATION

### GOVERNMENT'S VET REVIEW TOO LITTLE TOO LATE – Plibersek/Cameron

**The Government's announcement last night that it will conduct a review into Australia's flailing vocational education and training (VET) system is a panicked response to a crisis of the Liberals' own making.**

Australia's VET system is failing to deliver outcomes for students and employers because the Liberals have ripped more than \$3 billion from training and apprenticeships.



There are 140,000 fewer apprentices since the Liberals took office and their flagship apprenticeship policy didn't outlay a cent for more than a year.

Labor announced in February we will conduct national inquiry into the entire post-secondary education system which has been damaged by funding cuts, privatisation, competition policy, poor regulation, and unhealthy competition.

Scott Morrison's announcement to the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's annual dinner in Canberra last night does not correspond with his ministers' recent claims that Australia's VET system is better than the German model, the global benchmark.

A recent report tabled in the South Australian Parliament shows Australia's VET system is underfunded, fragmented, devalued, and has no effective governance.

The report, by retired senior public servant Terry Moran, rightly points out the Liberals' funding arrangements are chaotic and that there is no national strategy. The report found:

- student enrolments in TAFE have plummeted by 24.5 per cent;
- dodgy private training providers continue to go bust;
- thousands of students have debts for courses they have not done;
- employers are reporting growing skill shortages; and
- \$24 million has been expended on the Australian Apprenticeship Management System that has now been abandoned.

The Liberals' VET review is just about buying them time before the next election. Everyone knows that Liberal Party reviews are ideologically driven exercises that result in cuts. Given this Government's track record we would also expect poorer flexibility, attacks on trade certificates, more TAFE closures, and even greater share of funding going to the private sector.

One of the first decisions of the newly elected Liberal Government in South Australia was to close seven TAFE campuses.

The Liberals mismanagement of the VET system has seen Australia fall to the bottom of OECD international leader charts when it comes to our capacity to engage in global value chains.

If elected, federal Labor will provide \$100 million to the Building TAFE for the Future Fund to commence a program of revitalising campuses across Australia.

A Shorten Labor Government will also waive upfront fees for 100,000 students to attend TAFE and conduct a once in a generation national inquiry into the post-secondary education system within the first 100 days of being elected.

Labor is committed to ensuring at least two thirds of all government funding for vocational education will go to TAFE. The balance will go to not-for-profit community providers and only the best private providers with demonstrable links to specific industry requirements.

## INNOVATION

### SHORTEN LABOR GOVERNMENT WILL END THE WAR ON SCIENCE – Shorten/Carr

**A Shorten Labor Government will end the Liberals' war on science, restore trust in scientists and put science back at the centre of government, by resetting the relationship between government and Australia's science and research community.**

For the past five years, science and scientists have been denigrated or ignored, and funding has been cut, because the government refuses to listen to the experts on climate change, energy policy, and growing inequality in Australia.

Labor's mission is to develop a relationship with our scientists and researchers based on trust, respect and mutual obligation, for the benefit of the Australian people.

Labor understands that scientific research and development is fundamental to Australia's future. It's fundamental to Australia's capacity for innovation, for economic growth and productivity and for the creation of new jobs. It's fundamental to the food we farm and eat, to the cities we live in, our energy future and security, the way we communicate, the health of our loved ones, and our national security.

**If elected, a Shorten Labor Government will develop a charter with the Australian science and research community to establish the reciprocal roles, responsibilities and expectations of government and researchers.**

As part of this charter Labor will:

- affirm our fundamental respect for academic freedom;
- review and strengthen the National Science and Research priorities; and
- establish a Prime Ministers Science and Innovation Council, responsible for identifying our national priorities in science and research.
- **A Shorten Labor Government is committed to reversing the decline in Australia's research and development performance that has taken place in the past five years.**

Labor is the only party committed to lifting Australian spending on Research and Development from 1.8 per cent of GDP to 3 per cent. We are committed to restoring our international competitiveness.

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And to restore the integrity of the Australian Research Council, we will legislate a requirement that Ministers must table an explanation in Parliament within 15 sitting days of rejecting any recommendation of funding by the Chief Executive Officer.

**A Shorten Labor Government will also establish, for the first time in 20 years, a once in a generation, root-and-branch inquiry into strengthening our research capabilities across the whole of government.**

Australia needs a new direction for science and research that brings scientists together instead of dividing their efforts.

The review's terms of reference will build on the experience of similar reviews undertaken by Canada and the UK.

Leading scientists in Australia have committed themselves to being part of the review, which will be led by the former Chief Scientist and former vice-chancellor of the Australian National University, Professor Ian Chubb AC. Other members of the review panel include:

- Professor Christobel Saunders AO FRCS FRACS FAAHMS
- Professor Emma Johnston AO FRSN
- Professor Andrew Holmes AC FRS FAA FTSE
- Professor Karen Hussey
- Mr Phil Clark AM
- Professor Glyn Davis AC FASSA FIIPA
- Additional members will be announced in due course.

Only Labor is committed to a stronger partnership between science and government, and to fostering a better relationship of deeper respect and greater co-operation. Australia's future depends on it.

#### **FACT SHEETS:**

Science and research for Australia: [LINK](#) Research in Australia: [LINK](#) Restoring integrity to the Australian Research Council: [LINK](#)

### **TEHAN GOES MISSING PUTTING RESEARCH JOBS AT RISK - Carr**

**Jobs, livelihoods and Australia's innovation system are being placed at risk by Education Minister, Dan Tehan's refusal to approve \$300 million in grants from the Australian Research Council (ARC).**

The Minister seems more than capable of holding a crisis meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss the Liberals' Victorian wipe out, but is incapable of following the advice of the ARC and approving these grants.

Either this is a Minister who does not know his job, or this is a Minister contemplating further political interference and rejecting a number of grants.

Despite [widespread reports](#) that the Minister may not announce the grants until early next year, there has been no clarity, with the uncertainty placing jobs in jeopardy.

The ARC's Discovery and DECRA grants, normally announced in late October, are one of the major funding rounds announced each year.

Yet the announcement of successful recipients for this year is the latest on record.

Minister Tehan has been in a position to approve these grants for weeks now. Labor understands that the recommendations were sent to former Minister Birmingham in late August.

The jobs of many scientists and researchers in all disciplines are dependent on the announcement of these grant outcomes.

The failure to announce these grants means that younger researchers and support staff on contracts do not know if they will have a job after Christmas.

Peak bodies like [Science and Technology Australia](#) and the [Australian Academy of Science](#) have raised the alarm about the delays

:

***"This delay is having significant negative effects on people lives, and it's grossly unfair to string them along without a clear reason for doing so" Professor Emma Johnson, President, Science and Technology Australia - 22 November 2018***

Labor has repeatedly called on Minister Tehan to announce these grants.

The response from the Education Minister has been complete and utter silence.

These petty culture war games must stop.

Only Labor will restore integrity to the Australian Research Council and Australia's research system.



## **HEALTH**

### **ACCC REPORT INTO PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE – Catherine King**

**After five years of Liberal dithering this is what you get: more and more Australians downgrading or ditching their private health cover in response to relentless price rises, soaring out-of-pocket costs and growing exclusions.**

The latest ACCC report into private health insurance offers yet more confirmation that the Liberals' so-called "reforms" – designed hand-in-hand with the insurers themselves – are doing little to bring down costs or restore trust in this industry.

The report finds:

- In 2017–18, consumers paid about \$23.9 billion in private health insurance premiums – an increase of almost \$834 million over 2016–17;
- As of June 2018, 45.1 per cent of the Australian population held hospital-only or combined health insurance cover – a decrease of 0.9 percentage points from a year earlier;
- The proportion of the population holding extras-only policies increased from 8.9 per cent in June 2017 to 9.2 per cent in June 2018;
- The average out-of-pocket expenses from hospital treatment increased by 3.3 per cent;
- In June 2018, 44 per cent of hospital policies held had exclusions, compared with 40 per cent in June 2017.

Under the Liberals, premiums have increased by 27 per cent since 2014 – costing families an average \$1,000 more. Meanwhile, the insurers remain highly profitable.

The Government is still patting itself on the back for delivering a 4 per cent premium price rise this year – double the inflation rate.

Clearly Australians don't agree that this is some kind of great victory and they're fleeing this market in record numbers, putting the entire

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industry at risk. And the Government has done nothing more than tinker at the edges.

The ACCC report shows why Labor's policies are so sorely needed.

Labor will cap premium price increases at 2 per cent for two years, delivering families an average saving of \$340 and shifting the balance back in the favour of consumers rather than company executives. We will also task the Productivity Commission with a sweeping review to identify long-term sustainable ways to bring down costs and improve quality.

Only with these policies can we stop the exodus and get this industry back on track.

### **WE'RE FAILING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILL HEALTH – Collins/Terri Butler/O'Neill**

**The latest Mission Australia annual youth survey is a stark reminder that the level of mental ill health amongst young people remains of persistent and increasing concern.**

**Mental health  
is now the  
biggest  
concern  
identified by  
15-19 year olds**

According to the survey released today 43 per cent of young people identified mental health as the top issue facing Australia – up from 33% in 2017 and doubling since 2016. Labor knows that despite the best efforts of governments and sector alike, mental ill health continues to affect far too many young Australians.

With half of mental disorders presenting in people before the age of 14 and seventy-five per cent before the age of 25, targeting children and young people is critical.

When a young person is experiencing mental ill health and they are attempting to seek help, there is a small window to intervene and help them and their loved ones. At the moment, existing services are struggling to cope with demand. For many young people, these services are not always easily accessible.

Labor acknowledges values and respects the amazing and tireless work undertaken by youth mental health professionals. However, Labor knows there is more work to be done to improve the mental health of young Australians and we know that more early intervention services are needed.

That is why under a Shorten Labor Government the total number of headspace centres will expand to 112. Labor recently announced that a Shorten Labor Government will create a new Burnie headspace and Monash headspace to deliver greater early intervention mental health services for those aged 12 to 25 years.

This builds on Labor's strong history of supporting and expanding youth mental health services, particularly headspace.

When Labor was last in Government we increased the number of headspace sites by investing almost \$200 million to bring the total number of headspace centres to 90. Labor also expanded the Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre services that are delivered by headspace. Labor has been consulting with headspaces all around the country, as well as meeting with youth mental health experts, including young people with lived experience and accessing services.

Labor knows that we can and must do better for our young people. Because taking action on youth mental health is simply the right thing to do – for our young people, their loved ones and the broader community.

**\* For 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services call Lifeline on 13 11 14. Other services include Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467, Beyondblue: 1300 22 4636, Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800, MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978 \***

### **PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION TERMS WELCOME DESPITE DELAYS – Collins/O'Neill**

**While Labor welcomes the release of the Terms of Reference for the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health, we reiterate the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government should not use this Inquiry to delay action in progressing reform that is needed.**

The Productivity Commission inquiry will be important to understanding the social and economic costs in relation to mental health. But sadly there have already been delays to getting the Inquiry underway.

Questions remain about why this Inquiry is being initiated now, 18 months after former National Mental Health Commission chairman Professor Allan Fels called for it. The Minister for Health promised the Inquiry would begin in October but delayed the release of the Terms of Reference until today.

Labor wrote to Minister Hunt and Treasurer Frydenberg seeking input into the Terms of Reference of this important Inquiry.

We are pleased the Inquiry will have regard to previous work by the National Mental Health Commission and the Productivity Commission but are disappointed emphasis on prevention, early intervention and the need for data has not been explicitly mentioned.

Labor also hoped to see specific reference to the needs of young people, ATSI, CALD and LGBTIQ communities in the Terms of Reference.

We are disappointed that the needs of these communities have not been explicitly addressed in the Terms of Reference despite the fact that, sadly, mental ill health and suicide continues to disproportionately impact these groups.

Too often the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has played catch-up in this vital area of policy, approaching mental health reform from a piecemeal perspective.

Australians living with mental ill health cannot afford more delays.

The Productivity Commission Inquiry represents a real opportunity for reform and should not be squandered by this government.

The Morrison Government should be leading the states and territories with reform to ensure the 4 million Australians living with mental ill health get the vital support and services they need.

Labor will be closely monitoring the progress of this important Inquiry.

**\* For 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services call Lifeline on 13 11 14. Other services include Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467, Beyondblue: 1300 22 4636, Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800, MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978 \***



### **NEW VIOLENCE STATISTICS SHOW ROYAL COMMISSION STILL NEEDED- Burney/Brown**

**New data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics this morning reveals that violence and abuse against people with disability or long-term health conditions continues at an unacceptably high rate in Australia.**

The 2016-17 Personal Safety Survey has revealed that people with disability or a long-term health condition experienced physical violence at a greater rate than the general population.

Young people with disabilities or long-term conditions experienced sexual harassment almost twice as frequently as young people in the broader

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population.

"This survey demonstrates clearly what we've known for a long time now. Violence against vulnerable members of our society is unacceptably high and this Government is doing nothing about it" said Linda Burney, Shadow Minister for Families and Social Services.

"Labor committed to a Royal Commission into violence and abuse against people with disability eighteen months ago and we've heard next-to nothing from the Government in response".

"We can't afford to simply accept these statistics as normal" said Carol Brown, Shadow Minister for Disability and Carers.

"There are real steps we can take to counteract these shocking statistics, but the Government has refused to follow Labor's lead and call this much needed Royal Commission".

It's time for the Government to take serious action.

It's time for the Government to announce a Royal Commission, and to take action to prevent violence and abuse against people with disability and long-term illness.

## IMMIGRATION

### LIBERALS MUST DELIVER PROMISED SPONSORED PARENT VISA - Neumann

**Two years and five months after the Liberals made a promise to introduce a temporary sponsored parent visa, it's now time for the Morrison Government to deliver on that promise so Australians can temporarily reunite with their loved ones.**

The Liberals first made their commitment of enhanced visitor visas for sponsored parents in June 2016 – following Labor's announcement during the last Federal election.

In Scott Morrison's 2017-18 Budget, he and his Liberals said the visa would be up and running by November 2017.

Since then, the divided and chaotic Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has claimed the creation of this visa was dependent on *Migration Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2016* – legislation they failed to bring on for debate in the Senate for over a year until this week.

Today, this important piece of legislation – legislation which Labor has long made clear our support for – *finally* passed both houses.

The out of touch Liberal Government have no excuses left when it comes to delivering the temporary sponsored parent visa they promised to Australia's multicultural and migrant communities during the 2016 election.

The Government should deliver the visa they promised – not the revised version announced in the 2017-18 Budget which included previously unannounced conditions such as limiting the visa to one set of parents per household.

Conditions like this would force families to choose which parents or in-laws they reunite with. Labor had previously written to the new Immigration Minister David Coleman expressing these concerns and their impacts.

A temporary sponsored parent visa means children living in Australia can be reunited with their parents who live overseas. It means grandparents can meet, and have quality time with, their grandchildren born in Australia.

Why do the Liberals keep standing in the way of Australian families being able to do this?

It's clear Australia deserves better than Scott Morrison's divided and out of touch Government, their broken promises, and neglect of our multicultural and migrant communities.

### DUTTON PUTS VISA CANCELLATION SYSTEM AT RISK – Dreyfus/Neumann

**Monday's revelations that Peter Dutton's capacity to make decisions as a Minister and cancel visas is being challenged in the Federal Court shows the cost of the Morrison Government's refusal to refer Mr Dutton to the High Court.**

Because of the foolishness of the Morrison Government's decision to ignore Mr Dutton's eligibility issues, Australia's ability to kick foreign criminals out of the country is now in jeopardy – with more than 1600 visa cancellations made by Mr Dutton now in question.

This is clearly unacceptable and it puts Australians at risk.

Legal advice warning of this very outcome was released two months ago. The Government cannot say it had no warning that a legal challenge like this could occur.

If Mr Dutton does not refer himself to the High Court immediately, it is likely this case will

remain in legal limbo – allowing the foreign criminal in question to stay in the country indefinitely – and potentially opening the floodgates to countless others.

Is Peter Dutton really that selfish? Just what does he have to hide?

It's time for Mr Morrison to wake up and end this farce – which is putting Australians at risk.

If Mr Dutton refuses to refer himself to the High Court, Mr Morrison must move the motion himself.

This Morrison Government's dysfunction and chaos cannot be allowed to interfere with the integrity of Australia's migration program and the administration of Australian justice.

### NEWLY ARRIVED RESIDENTS WAITING PERIODS – Bowen/Burney

**Labor has secured significant improvements to the Government's *Encouraging Self Sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants Bill 2018* to protect vulnerable new residents, families and children.**

We acknowledge these changes won't fix all of the problems in the Government's Bill - but they will protect as many people as possible without leaving the fate of this Bill at the mercy of One Nation and the Senate crossbench.

The alternative would have been to risk the Government's plan for four-year waiting periods pass the Senate in their entirety.

**As a result of Labor's negotiations, the number of families and children impacted each year by the Government's Family Tax Benefit waiting period will be reduced by around three quarters, and the number of people impacted by other changes will be nearly halved.**

The Government originally proposed an increase in the Newly Arrived Residents Waiting Periods for social security payments, Family Tax Benefit, Paid Parental Leave and Dad and Partner Pay to four years.

Labor has secured major concessions to protect vulnerable people, families and children, including:

- No waiting period for Family Tax Benefit Part B;
- No increase in the waiting period for Carer Payment;
- One year waiting period for Family Tax Benefit Part A;

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- One year waiting period for Carer Allowance;
- Two year waiting period for Paid Parental Leave and Dad and Partner Pay;
- New Zealanders, orphan visa holders and remaining relative visa holders are excluded from the changes; and
- Expanded access to Special Benefit when people's circumstances change – including in the case of domestic and family violence.

Importantly, exemptions to waiting periods for people who become lone parents will also remain. And people on refugee and humanitarian visas, as well as those who become citizens are exempt from the changes.

The Government's four-year waiting periods would have caused great hardship for thousands of families and children.

By securing these amendments, Labor has ensured 49,000 families and 107,000 children will be protected from the Family Tax Benefit waiting period each year – and 21,000 people will avoid the impacts of waiting periods for other payments.

Labor will support an increase to the Family Tax Benefit Part A Higher Income Free Area from \$94,316 to \$98,988 and a 30-cents-in-the-dollar taper rate for all families above this threshold. This will benefit up to 79,000 families, but increase the payment taper rate for some families with incomes above \$98,988.

This is a significant improvement on changes that were proposed by the Government last year.

A one-year extension to the indexation pause for the upper income limits for Paid Parental Leave, Dad and Partner Pay, and Family Tax Benefit Part B Primary Income Earner Limit will also be supported.

In order to reduce the impact of the Government's proposed new resident waiting periods, Labor has agreed to support an amended version of the Bill which incorporates these changes.

These decisions have been made to protect those on the lowest incomes, families and children.

They are not easy decisions. Labor would never have proposed these extensions to resident waiting periods.

But we could not – in good conscience – leave decisions about support for newly arrived residents in the hands of One Nation.

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

### LABOR STEPS UP TO TACKLE 'BUY NOW PAY LATER' – O'Neill/McAllister

Labor announced this week that we will move to give ASIC new powers to protect consumers by including 'buy now, pay later' providers in the scope of new design and distribution obligations and product intervention powers.



Labor will move amendments in the Senate to the *Treasury Laws Amendment (Design and Distribution Obligations and Product Intervention Powers) Bill 2018* to include a greater range of financial products, including 'buy now, pay later' products and funeral expenses products, within the scope of both the design and distribution obligations and product intervention powers.

This change will dramatically improve consumer protection and regulatory oversight of 'buy now, pay later' products.

ASIC has asked for its new product intervention powers to be expanded to cover 'buy now, pay later' providers, and Labor has listened.

ASIC yesterday released a review of 'buy now, pay later' services, which highlights the desperate need for greater scrutiny of credit and financial services targeted at vulnerable Australians.

**The report released by ASIC** found that the rapid growth of 'buy now, pay later' services has resulted in almost \$1 billion in outstanding buy now pay later balances. One in six users had either become overdrawn, delayed bill payments or borrowed additional money.

Unlike the out-of-touch Morrison Government, Labor is committed to protecting consumers. That's why Labor is moving swiftly to accept ASIC's recommendations.

Labor has also established a Senate inquiry to examine the credit and financial services targeted at Australians at risk of financial hardship. The inquiry will examine whether the current regulation of debt management firms, payday lenders and 'buy now, pay later' providers is adequate to protect vulnerable members of the community from financial harm.

We are listening to customers, to experts and to regulators to make sure we get to the bottom of this issue. Financial counsellors are telling us that clients in financial hardship are at risk of spiralling debts due to compounding debts from small credit services – such as 'buy now, pay later'.

The Liberals simply don't care about protecting consumers. Scott Morrison voted 26 times against the Banking Royal Commission, calling it a "populist whinge" and a "QC's complaints desk". Liberals are divided, out of touch and only for the top end of town. They simply have no interest in protecting ordinary Australians from financial hardship.

Labor is committed to protecting vulnerable consumers from harm. We will continue to investigate these issues through the Senate Inquiry and ensure the law is protecting financially stressed Australians.

### ENDING THE TICKET GOUGING RIP OFF - Shorten/Farrell/Burke/Madeleine King

Labor will give Aussie sports and music fans a fair go, cracking down on ticket gouging which locks fans out of major events.

Labor will introduce a **national ban** on the use of ticket-buying bot software, which flood ticket websites to purchase the most tickets possible, causing ordinary consumers to miss out.

It is estimated bots account for as much as 30 per cent of the traffic to primary ticketing sites in the moments after a major event goes on sale.

We will also introduce a national cap on the resale price of tickets at 110 per cent of the initial face value.

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This will mean fans will get a fair go on accessing tickets to sporting blockbusters, as well as concerts, musicals and theatres. Ticket scalping is a growing scourge – instead of the sales going to our footy clubs and local businesses, artists and the music industry, fraudsters are building profit models and forcing consumers to pay exorbitant prices for tickets, or missing out completely. Labor will act. A Shorten Labor Government will introduce a cap of 110 per cent of initial face value price for any resold tickets and make sure laws are consistent across all states and territories through federal legislation. This crackdown will aim to cut the business model for websites like ViaGogo, which relies on selling tickets to music and sports fans at exorbitant, inflated prices and can often leave consumers stranded with useless tickets that have been sold multiple times. Labor will also ban the use of ticket-buying bot software, which prevents ordinary consumers from accessing popular concerts and major events. This will ensure genuine fans get fair access to tickets, and won't have to compete with sophisticated software designed to buy as many tickets as possible when popular events go on sale online.

A Labor Government will also boost consumer protection by:

- Strengthening disclosure requirements for all ticket sellers; and
- Allowing for the fair resale of tickets, preventing primary ticket sellers cancelling legitimately purchased on-sold tickets
- A national ban on speculative ticket listing

The ACCC will conduct a review of these measures after twelve months of operation, with a view to further strong action if required.

We understand that consumers need the ability to easily on-sell tickets if they need to, and others may want to purchase tickets at the last minute. These reforms won't prevent that – they will simply mean that ticket sellers can't significantly profit from desperate fans.

The Liberals have been too paralysed by their own instability to take action on this issue, only introducing disclosure requirements for resellers last month and failing to act on ticket gouging at all. Labor will prioritise Australian sports and music fans to make sure consumers get an overdue fair go.



## **LABOR WILL TURN THE VOLUME UP ON AUSTRALIAN MUSIC – Shorten/Burke**

**A Shorten Labor Government will introduce the most comprehensive contemporary music policy by an Australian government.**

From encouraging more Australian children to learn and play music, to assisting young bands reach overseas markets, to more support for live music and ensuring fans aren't being ripped off when they buy tickets - Labor wants to see more Australians making music, listening to music, and seeing music live.



The music industry contributes nearly \$6 billion to the Australian economy each year. According to ARIA, the Australian music industry will be worth \$100 billion globally within a decade. Live music alone supports around 64,000 jobs in Australia. More Australians attend live music than sport.

Labor wants to make sure the live music industry continues to grow, and to see more Australians with stable jobs in a thriving local industry.

Labor's music policy all comes back to one single objective: We want to inspire the next generation of Australian artists and to see more international success stories.

Labor wants to make sure Australian kids have the chance to learn music, regardless of where they live. While many Australian kids are lucky enough to have parents who encourage them to learn an instrument at a young age, more and more kids now rely on their school to learn to play an instrument. To help schools facilitate learning, a Shorten Labor Government will provide \$7 million in extra support for music education and music teachers. The funding will go towards expanding school programs such as SongMakers which brings musicians into schools, and Song Room, dedicated to providing music and art lessons to disadvantaged kids.

One of the biggest barriers for younger musicians is having a space to practice together. Labor will provide \$5 million in grant funding to establish and grow music hubs around the country. This funding will provide support to councils, schools, neighbourhood centres or community spaces to set up a music hub where students and musicians in the local area can come, learn, collaborate and practice. Funding could be used for soundproofing, equipment, instruments, acoustic assessments or refurbishments.

Labor wants more emerging artists to have the opportunity to record an album for public release and to play at live music venues. Labor will commit over \$10m to the "new Sounds Australia" to deliver the functions of the office of live music to help them work with local governments to remove barriers for live music venues around the country. This means more places for young musicians to play, but also more venues for music lovers to see live performances locally. Labor will also double the funding to the New Recordings program to help a further ten new Australian artists record an EP. The current program allows for ten albums to be recorded a year, and has helped artists such as Courtney Barnett and Alex the Astronaut gain an audience.

One of the key foundations of Sounds Australia is to showcase Australian music overseas. Labor's commitment to the new Sounds Australia will expand its reach and build on the 1500 Australian groups that have been showcased at international events in over 23 countries. This means more musicians have a pathway to staying in the industry and more Australian music is heard here and around the world. Part of showcasing our music overseas will be small grants that are made available to help promote emerging Australian bands around the world, particularly in new markets such as Asia. Sounds Australia and the Association of Artists Managers will work together and, when needed, provide modest grants to assist with practical measures to help bands get a foothold including costs of airfares, local management and connections and assistance with booking venues. These grants could mean the difference between a new band making it in a new market or not.

Labor's music policy will also include measures such as:

- cracking down on ticket scalping websites such as Viagogo
- increased funding for music and mental health programs.

The policies we are announcing today are aimed at boosting every aspect of Australian music. We want Australian music to be heard, Australian artists to stay in the industry and the next generation to be inspired. And we want to make it easier for music fans to buy tickets to the bands they love.

We believe in what our songwriters, musicians, performers and music industry do. We think it matters. Our Australian soundtrack matters. Let's turn up the volume. More information on Labor's policy can be found [here](#).

## ENERGY POLICY

### **ALLIANZ SLAMS MORRISON'S ANTI-RENEWABLES GOVERNMENT – Mark Butler**

Global insurer Allianz has slammed the Morrison Government's inadequate climate and energy policies in their [latest report](#), ranking Australia last amongst G20 top economies for their inaction to implement policies in line with the Paris Agreement.

Allianz has described the Morrison Government's energy policy paralysis as a result of a *"lack of political will"* saying *"Australia is heading towards a policy cliff-edge, meaning there will be no policy support for renewables after 2020."*

Allianz specifically noted Scott Morrison and the Liberals anti-renewables rhetoric saying, *"previous stragglers like Saudi Arabia and Turkey are improving their policy environment, while some developed countries such as Australia...still have not taken charge."*

*"Australia continues to decrease federal support (for renewables) despite having more mature markets and experienced institutions in place."*

Scott Morrison must explain to the G20 why his out of touch government continues to wage an anti-renewables war that is driving up pollution and crippling investor certainty.

This week the UN confirmed the Government's own data which shows under Scott Morrison's hopeless climate change policies, carbon pollution will continue to rise all the way to 2030 (as far as the projections go).

Australians deserve a Shorten Labor Government that will take action on climate change, and reduce carbon pollution in line with our 45 per cent emissions reduction target by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. Labor will invest in a renewable energy future which will lower power prices, bring down pollution and secure clean jobs.

### **'HEAVY HANDED' POWERS THAT INCREASE 'SOVEREIGN RISK' – Bowen/Mark Butler**

In another sign the Liberal Party under Scott Morrison is more about populism than sensible government, big business lobby group the Business Council of Australia has taken aim at the Liberal Party's proposed energy divestment powers as *"exacerbating sovereign risk"* with *"serious adverse consequences for prices and reliability down the track"*.

The [BCA submission](#) and its devastating attack on Scott Morrison's thought bubble to give the Treasurer powers to order the break-up of private companies should be essential weekend reading for all Liberal Party MPs.

These are dangerous and extreme powers that not even the competition regulator, the ACCC, recommended, in fact ACCC Chair Rod Sims told Senate estimates recently the first he learned of Scott Morrison's thought bubble was when reading the newspapers.

Not the even the normally resolute and steadfast Finance Minister could be bothered to explain and defend the divestment powers when interviewed on the topic last week.

This is what the Business Council of Australia says about Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg's proposals:

*"A Treasurer-ordered power is even more extreme measure and risks sending a signal to the world that investing in Australia comes with considerable risks. If these powers are to be legislated then the power to make such an order must only be invested with the courts so that any decision is evidence-based and underpinned by the rule of law."*

*"A further concern about the Treasurer-ordered remedies proposed in the Consultation Paper is that there is no detail about the decision-making framework that would apply. The Consultation Paper simply states that the Treasurer's determinations will be 'proportional and targeted' to address 'unacceptable outcomes'. A greater level of clarity is required to stipulate how these proposed powers would be exercised."*

*"We should be cautious that new interventions into the market do not increase sovereign risk and discourage the new investment the sector urgently needs. The proposed introduction of these heavy-handed, intrusive Treasurer-ordered remedies in the energy sector sets a dangerous precedent for other sectors of the economy and threatens our economic attractiveness."*

This would normally be the point where you'd hear some sort of complaint from a conservative Liberal Party MP about how these plans threaten free enterprise and will create sovereign risks.

Instead what we have had from Coalition sources is the floating of even crazier ideas to extend these 'heavy handed' powers to other parts of the economy.

The Liberal Party is fond of quoting the Business Council of Australia, when it suits to their cause, well this submission is a devastating blow to the fantasy that giving a future Treasurer powers to break-up companies won't severely effect investment and power prices as well as the attractiveness of Australia as an investment destination.

The BCA position confirms this would create sovereign risk where none exists right now.

Now is the time for those often vocal conservative MPs to prove there not just talk when it comes to their ideological commitment to 'free enterprise'.

## ENVIRONMENT

### POLLUTION CONTINUING TO RISE UNDER MORRISON – Butler

**Under Scott Morrison's chaotic government carbon pollution is continuing to go up, and up, and up.**

After pollution fell under Labor, the Government's [latest data](#) shows carbon emissions are now at their highest level since 2011.

While Australians are calling out for climate change action the Liberals are washing their hands of responsibility to future generations.

The Liberals have no plan to tackle climate change and instead they keep lying to Australians saying we will meet their already inadequate Paris targets in a "canter".

The Government's own data doesn't lie. Under Scott Morrison's hopeless climate change policies, carbon pollution is up and will continue to rise all the way to 2030 (as far as the projections go).

A Shorten Labor Government will make taking action on climate change a priority.

### UN SLAMS MORRISON'S CLIMATE INACTION – Mark Butler

The [2018 UN Emissions Gap Report](#) shows just how hopeless Scott Morrison and his divided Liberals have been in taking action on climate change.

In a devastating assessment, the UN has lamented Australia's lack of emissions reduction saying, "There has been no improvement in Australia's climate policy since 2017 and emission levels for 2030 are projected to be well above the [Nationally Determined Contribution] target."

It is a slap in the face for Australians that the Prime Minister, Environment Minister and Energy Minister all repeat the lie that Australia will meet our Paris climate targets in a "canter."

The Government's own data, and now the UN, show that under Scott Morrison's hopeless climate change policies, carbon pollution will continue to rise all the way to 2030 – which is as far as the projections go.

No wonder "moderate Liberals" are finally speaking out against the Government's continued kowtowing to the hard right wreckers of their party room which have dictated action on climate change and energy.

Australians deserve a Shorten Labor Government that will take action on climate change, and reduce carbon pollution in line with our 45 per cent emissions reduction target by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. Labor will invest in a renewable energy future which will lower power prices, bring down pollution and secure clean jobs.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### MCKENZIE CLUTCHING AT STRAWS ON SHORTWAVE – Jones

**The Minister for Regional Communications' statement explaining its failure to restore ABC Shortwave radio services to remote Australia is extraordinary.**

In it, the Minister rightly acknowledges that the decision to close this vital service used by residents, businesses and tourists in remote Australia was ill advised and done without consultation.

*"I know the value that regional Australians place on an independent Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).*

*That is why I strongly expressed my opposition to the decision publicly in 2016. The decision was made with limited notice and without proper consultation."* - **Senator Bridget McKenzie Media Release 29 November 2018**

The Minister also points out, correctly, that for many people living or travelling in outback Australia there are no alternative services.

*"The ABC claims that instead of using shortwave radio, users will simply switch to using their mobile phones or TV satellites. However, in many of these areas, those services are simply not available or unreliable."* - **Senator Bridget McKenzie Media Release 29 November 2018**

What is extraordinary is the reason given for not acting to restore the transmission service.

In her words, the Minister claims she cannot act because anything she or her government does would compromise the ABC's "full independence in relation to its operational decisions."

It is extraordinary that the Minister believes that providing the ABC with an additional \$2 million to restore a transmission service would compromise the ABC's independence, but removing \$366 million from the ABC as her government has done, would not.

It would be hard to find a Government that has been more hostile to either the operational or editorial independence of the ABC.

Her cabinet colleague, the Minister for Communications Senator Fifield has been a regular correspondent to the ABC, complaining about editorial matters.

What is clear is that the National Party ministers have complained very loudly about the decision to shut down the essential shortwave radio service, but have done nothing to restore it.

They should match Labor's commitment to re-instate the service so that people in outback Australia can once again have access to the essential ABC radio service that other Australians enjoy.

### GOVERNMENT SHOULD MATCH SHORTWAVE FUNDING – Jones/Snowdon/McCarthy/Gosling

Shadow Minister for Regional Communications Stephen Jones has [written](#) to Regional

Services Minister Bridget McKenzie, calling for a commitment to re-instate ABC Shortwave Radio right now.

**Authorised by Senator Claire Moore, Australian Labor Party, 421 Brunswick St, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006.**



Labor last week announced \$2 million towards re-establishing the vital service which is relied upon by Australians living in remote parts of the country with extremely limited mobile and internet coverage.

Labor believes that it was premature to cut ABC shortwave radio services and that if the ABC had not been under intense budget constraints, this decision would never have been made.

There's no good reason to delay re-instating these services.

That's why Labor is calling on the Government to join us in committing to reverse what was a bad decision.

Funding could be allocated to be able to help restore this vital service immediately.

Australians living in remote areas already face significant communications challenges and the loss of access to ABC services from shortwave radio cuts people off from emergency broadcasts as well as being an important connection to the rest of Australia.

The Northern Territory Government estimates that some 50,000 people live outside the urban areas of Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine and potentially relied on shortwave transmission services.

Organisations like the NT Government, NT Cattleman's Association, Northern Territory Seafood Council representing commercial and tourist fishing businesses and the Toyota Land Cruiser Club representing Grey Nomads have raised concerns about the loss of these services. The Territory is a draw card for grey nomads with around 600,000 visits each year.

It's estimated there are 600,000 tourist visits per annum to remote areas of the Northern Territory and there are a minimum of 650 commercial fishing and fishing tourist operators in Northern Territory waters every year.

We know there are members of the Coalition who agree that this service needs to be restored.

Minister for Regional Services Bridget McKenzie [labelled the decision to end shortwave services to the Northern Territory 'short-sighted'](#)

**"This is of vital concern for Territorians, with the decision made to axe the service without any consultation locally.**

**I would have thought that the ABC would have asked Territorians their views before making this decision as it will have significant impact in remote and indigenous communities in the NT....**

**It is clearly wrong and ill-advised but for what end? It saves the ABC very little money and snubs the corporation's bureaucratic nose yet again at people who don't live in the capital cities."** [Bridget McKenzie Media Release - ABC Short Changes on Short Wave - Wednesday, 1 February 2017]

Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator Nigel Scullion [criticised the ABC's decision](#) but was unable to convince his own government to reverse it.

**"Shortwave radio transmission is an essential service – especially in times of emergencies such as cyclones and floods – for people in rural and remote areas of the Territory.**

**This is a really poor decision by the ABC Board which is supposed to ensure the broadcaster provides services – such as the shortwave radio service – not provided by other organisations.**

**There is still time for the Sydney-based city-centric ABC to do the right thing by Territorians and reverse this decision."**

**Nigel Scullion Media Release – Territorians urged to speak up on ABC Shortwave Cut – Tuesday, 31 January 2017**

The Government knows this is a vital service, and the only way to get it back as soon as possible is for both sides of politics to commit to funding it.

## **ONE YEAR ON AND OVER 1 MILLION HFC HOUSEHOLDS STILL IN NBN LIMBO - Rowland**

One year ago, to this day, NBNCo broke news of the HFC rollout halt with a [mind bending press release](#) that was entitled:

**"NBN Co takes customer experience improvement program to new levels"**

Mitch Fifield also tried his hand at reality distortion [when he declared](#):

**"Australia will have a fast broadband network that will be the envy of the world."**

**Fact:** The reliability problems with the HFC network have cost taxpayers \$900 million and delayed NBN access for up to 2 million households.

**Fact:** The [latest NBN weekly report](#) indicates 1.3 million premises in 'NBN ready' areas are still not able to order a service.

**Fact:** Despite the passage of twelve months the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government's HFC rollout remains nothing short of a national embarrassment:

- The abandonment of the Optus network in 2016, and the halt of the remaining HFC rollout in November 2017.
- A \$900 million [hit to taxpayers](#) as a result of the November 2017 HFC halt.
- ACMA research reporting consumers on HFC [are five times more likely](#) to complain than consumers on FTTP, and 3.6 times more likely to experience a fault.
- NBNCo reliability data reporting the average HFC connection [experiences 30 times more network downtime](#) relative to an FTTP connection.
- A Government which only met 6 per cent of its own HFC rollout target in the NBN Strategic Review.
- The build cost of HFC increasing by 64 per cent since 2015.

Meanwhile, New Zealand, the US and the UK have reduced the cost of deploying Fibre to the Premises by between 40 and 50 per cent.

On every measure the Coalition's HFC debacle has cost taxpayers more and delivered less.

Just as he has failed to explain why he betrayed Turnbull, Mitch Fifield needs to explain why he rejected the proposal from Bill Morrow to dump the entire HFC network and instead deploy Fibre to the curb.



## **DECENTRALISATION HAS TO BE MORE THAN A PORK BARREL - Jones**

**The latest jobs slated for a move as part of the Government's Decentralisation Policy are a political play rather than a sensible decision for the good of the regions.**

The Nationals have announced they want to move 50 Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) jobs from Sydney to Coffs Harbour by 2022. These jobs will be moved to a seat held by the Nationals, while a handful of AMSA jobs will also be sent to another Queensland seat held by the party.

Decentralisation has to be about more than blatant pork barrelling in the lead up to an election. The ad hoc shifting of jobs in and out of regional cities is not good public policy.

You cannot trust the Coalition to handle decentralisation properly. These public service jobs cannot be used a play for votes.

That's if they ever get to the point of moving.

Only 8 of 198 staff at the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) have moved to Armidale from Canberra since the

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Government announced its Decentralisation policy in 2017.

The Minister for Decentralisation today claimed 1150 jobs have been moved since 2013 - four years before their policy was even announced. However, hundreds of jobs that have been lost to regional Australia over the same period under the Coalition are glossed over. While 50 jobs would no doubt be welcomed in regional Australia, it does not offset more than 1200 Department of Human Services positions cut by this Government.



## APVMA PERFORMANCE FIGURES SHOW A DECLINE – Fitzgibbon

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority released its performance figures today claiming an increase in the figures, however, like all things in life the devil is always in the detail.

Whilst the overall performance figures seem to have improved, the technical and complex agvet product application timeframes continue to decline.

Animal Medicines Australia (AMA) remain concerned about the number of major assessments which are not meeting the statutory timeframes for consideration. The number of completions for this type of application has actually decreased by five per cent from the previous quarter. AMA further stated that *"It is critical for the health of Australian animals that veterinary medicines be assessed by the independent regulator through a timely and efficient process. Our veterinarians and pet owners need access to these products to maintain and improve animal health."*

Barnaby Joyce's handpicked CEO, Dr Parker has recently acknowledged that he has had to maintain an office in Canberra made up of highly qualified scientists, risk managers and decision-makers (who are refusing to relocate to Armidale) to maintain the performance of the organisation. This is a statutory responsibility of the CEO position. It is also important to note that the majority of the APVMA staff have not relocated to Armidale and that without the critical Canberra office, there is no way this expensive pork-barrel would work.

The fact is the ill-thought through decentralisation pork-barrel by the former Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce is failing. This failure will impact Australia's agriculture sectors as they will find it more difficult to access modern agvet products.

David Littleproud must do the right thing and make it a priority to ensure the APVMA is able to undertake its core responsibility of regulating crop protection and veterinary medicine products. Rather than kowtowing to the [want-to-be again Nationals Leader](#), Barnaby Joyce.

## CHESTER JOINS CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT TO FIX DROUGHT ASSISTANCE - Husic

Senior Coalition Government Ministers are now openly backing Labor's calls to improve access to vital drought assistance for struggling farmers.



The latest call to simplify access to drought help comes from the Veterans Affairs Minister Darren Chester who said:

*"The feedback I am receiving is the application process is still too complex and it is discouraging some farmers from making applications."* *Gippsland Times & Maffra Spectator, 27 November 2018*

While processing times are failing, the cut off for farmers to claim the first supplement payment of \$6000 is fast approaching on 1 December.

During recent Estimates hearings, the Government was quizzed about what it had done to address this and why complaints were still being received about the difficulties experienced by farmers attempting to access help.

Farmers are currently suffering due to complex and bureaucratic application processes and a depleted Centrelink system that has been gutted by the Coalition.

It's now been more than a year since the Queensland Federation of Farmers stated:

*"Many farmers had not applied for Farm Household Allowance (FHA) or the concessional loans - application process for FHA was considered complicated and difficult to complete."*

*"FHA is a useful in-drought support tool but its effectiveness is being hampered by difficulties in accessing the program."* **Submission -**

### Intergovernmental Agreement on National Drought Program Reform Oct 2016

Farmers are now one of the largest groups complaining about the slow process of accessing government support.

Others flagging the serious issues with accessing the Farm Household Allowance include:

NSW Farmers Executive Councillor, Martin Honner:

*"Rural counsellors are run off their feet. They are just being inundated with work,"*

*"There is a lot more work than just a flippancy line from a politician.*

*"I've heard from people who are not even putting in their applications because it is too hard.*

NSW Farmers president of the Wagga, Alan Brown:

*"The feedback I've had from people who have had to try to apply is that it they are all seeing rural financial counsellors or getting other professional help,"*

*"I understand that when you are applying for government money, there needs to be a high standard, but some parts of this application process are something else."*

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) Chief Executive Officer, Cassandra Goldie:

*"Farming communities are the latest of a rising number of people across the country who are making unprecedented complaints about their inability to access Centrelink to get timely assistance," she said.*

For months Labor has been calling on the government to make appropriate changes for those in need, but the Government has failed to act.



## **GREATER TAX TRANSPARENCY RECOMMENDED IN AGED CARE – McAllister/Leigh**

**A Senate Committee has recommended greater tax transparency for for-profit aged care providers.**

The Senate Economics References Committee report into Financial and Tax Practices of For-Profit recommends that for-profit aged care organisations that are in receipt of large sums of public money should be subject to more rigorous transparency protocols. Australians have the right to know the tax practices of large corporations.

While the Coalition has been paralysed by years of infighting and indecision, Labor has been making serious decisions on [tackling tax transparency and multinational tax avoidance](#), including a Senate bill lowering the transparency threshold for private companies from \$100 million to \$200 million – a Bill the Government [buried in the House](#).

Greater public scrutiny of the tax practices of for-profit providers in aged care will promote greater accountability and fairness.

Recommendations made by the committee offer a sound first step in tackling the holes in financial reporting of the sector.

Labor welcomes the committee's recommendations to strengthen the framework for tax transparency and accountability.

In relation to transparency the Senate inquiry recommended:

- Australian Accounting standards board implement international accounting standards board's conceptual framework;
- Increase public transparency of aged care providers' financial information held by the Department of Health;
- Convert the existing voluntary tax transparency code to a mandatory code for all large and medium corporations operating in Australia.

Senator McAllister said that now more than ever greater transparency is needed in the aged care sector.

"It is essential that the public can adequately scrutinise the financials of for-profit providers who are receiving public funds."

"The senate committee recommendations provide steps to bolster transparency and support the work of the Royal Commission into aged care."

The Committee has recommended that the Royal Commission into Aged Care consider the tax and financial structures of Aged care providers in determining whether there is any impact on quality of care received by older Australians.

Dr Leigh said that only Labor has a plan to increase tax transparency, to close loopholes and crack down on dodgy deductions.

"The Coalition should now adopt [Labor's full package](#) to crack down on multinational tax avoidance."

## **SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **FLETCHER BACKFLIPS ON FINANCIAL COUNSELLING - McAllister**

**The Government has back flipped on yet another of its decisions in the rollout of Financial Capability and Wellbeing grants.**

[Reports yesterday](#) that Minister Fletcher has further extended existing Financial Counselling grants from three to twelve months to organisations who recently had their funding cut add to a fortnight of chaos.



In an incredible display – the Minister has back flipped on his own backflip after realising that his initial extension was rebuked by the sector.

This is the fifth backflip on grant announcements in a fortnight.

The funding rollout for Financial Capability and Wellbeing grants has been a disaster of the Governments own making.

The Government has thrown front line services into chaos with only weeks to go before Christmas. This saga has caused immense stress to front line staff and was entirely avoidable.

While extras resources are always welcome, a chaotic allocation of funds to save the Ministers' own

political skin is no substitute for careful planning in response to identified community need.

The Government has an obligation to deliver to those most vulnerable – this chaos is further proof that the Liberals are not up to the task.

#### ***TIMELINE OF THE MINISTERS' BACK FLIPS***

12<sup>th</sup> November: The Government back flipped on their cruel [cuts to Foodbank](#).

14<sup>th</sup> November: The Government back flipped on their decision to cut funding to organisations in NSW and Victoria who run the [National Debt helpline](#) by extending their funding arrangements for 12 months.

17<sup>th</sup> November: The Minister back flipped on the roll out of their [emergency relief grants](#) across the country by extending grants arrangements to organisations that were recently notified of a cut to funding.

18<sup>th</sup> November: It was reported that there has been a further backflip to [financial counselling grants](#) by extending arrangements by three months to organisations that had recently had their funding cut.

[Yesterday](#), it was reported that the Minister would extend arrangements to organisations who recently had their funding cut for financial counselling grants from three to twelve months.

Labor is calling on the Minister to come clean on whether there are more problems with the rollout of these grants. The chaos surrounding social services needs to stop.

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## **Current Senate Inquiries**

### **Community Affairs References Committee**

- [Support for Australia's thalidomide survivors](#)
- [Accessibility and quality of mental health services in rural and remote Australia](#)
- [Effectiveness of the Aged Care Quality Assessment and accreditation framework for protecting residents from abuse and poor practices, and ensuring proper clinical and medical care standards are maintained and practiced](#)

### **Economics Legislation Committee**

- **New** [Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty Consequential Amendments Bill 2018 \[Provisions\] and the Passenger Movement Charge Amendment \(Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Making Sure Multinationals Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)

### **Economics References Committee**

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- [Credit and financial services targeted at Australians at risk of financial hardship](#)
- [Regional Inequality in Australia](#)
- [Non-conforming building products](#)
- **Education and Employment References Committee**
- [The appropriateness and effectiveness of the objectives, design, implementation and evaluation of jobactive](#)
- [The high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers](#)
- **Environment and Communications Legislation Committee**
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Improving the Energy Efficiency of Rental Properties\) Bill 2018](#)
- **Environment and Communications References Committee**
- [The allegations of political interference in the Australian Broadcasting Corporation \(ABC\)](#)
- [Impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia](#)
- [Gaming micro-transactions for chance-based items](#)
- [Australia's faunal extinction crisis](#)
- [Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program](#)
- [Australian content on broadcast, radio and streaming services](#)
- [Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities](#)
- **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee**
- [Defence Amendment \(Sovereign Naval Shipbuilding\) Bill 2018](#)
- **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee**
- [Use of the Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#)
- **Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee**
- **New** [National Integrity Commission Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Migration Amendment \(Strengthening the Character Test\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Bill 2018, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia \(Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Censorship\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Insult and Offend\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Security\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment \(Strengthening the Commitments for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Judiciary Amendment \(Commonwealth Model Litigant Obligations\) Bill 2017](#)
- **Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee**
- [The effectiveness of the current temporary skilled visa system in targeting genuine skills shortages](#)
- [The practice of dowry and the incidence of dowry abuse in Australia](#)
- **Red Tape Committee**
- [Policy and process to limit and reduce red tape](#)
- **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**
- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)
- **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee**
- [The independence of regulatory decisions made by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority \(APVMA\)](#)
- [The operation, regulation and funding of air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities](#)
- [The integrity of the water market in the Murray-Darling Basin](#)
- **Select Committee into the obesity epidemic in Australia**
- [Obesity Epidemic in Australia](#)
- **Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century**
- [Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century](#)
- **Select Committee on Electric Vehicles**
- [Electric Vehicles](#)
- **Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education**
- [Stillbirth Research and Education](#)
- **Standing Committee of Privileges**
- [Development of a foreign influence transparency scheme to apply to parliamentarians](#)
- [Possible improper interference with a Senator in the free performance of his duties](#)
- [Disposition of material obtained in the execution of a search warrant](#)
- **Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances**
- **New** [Parliamentary Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation](#)