



Senator Claire Moore

WEEKLY UPDATE: 1st June, 2018

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****** Labor's National Conference will now be held in Adelaide from Sun 16 Dec to Tue 18 December. ******

THIS WEEK:

Apart for yet another implosion of One Nation this week, the main focus in Canberra has been on the changes the Government has proposed to the Family Court and the process of Senate Estimates.

Labor welcomes the Government's acknowledgement of the crisis in the family court system, and the pain it is causing families caught up in it.

This situation has been going for far too long, and has worsened on the Government's watch.

Reform is needed but already serious concerns have been expressed as to some of the potential consequences of what the Government is proposing. This is especially the case in regard to the removal of the Appeals Division of the Family Court – which means that the toughest and most complex family law cases will no longer be heard by specialists. At the moment we have a lack of detail and will examine the legislation closely when it is made available.

Estimates are a vital part of our parliamentary process and our democracy.

They provide the opportunity for Senators to examine the performance of the Departments and Agencies.

It allows us to scrutinise policy, programs and performance.

Such scrutiny is very healthy for our political and administrative processes.

It invariably provides many illuminating insights into the management of our government and it's not, as this week's Update will attest, – all good news.

Better transparency in matters taxation, the waste of \$24 million dollars in yet another failed government IT program, the lack of transparency in regard to the government's use of contractors and consultants, the shameful use of taxpayer's dollars in government political advertising and too, the administrative mess our current cyber-security administration is in. were all revealed this week.

On another equally important matter, Labor, has this week renewed its call for the establishment of a Royal Commission into the abuse of people with a disability.

The figures and stories provided by many agencies who work in the area reveal that many of our disabled citizens are suffering terrible physical, sexual and financial abuse.

It is a poor reflection on our community and we need to lift the lid on this subject so we can do our best to support the rights of the disabled and better protect them from such behaviour.

SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore

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CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

If there is material you would like included or expanded upon, please let us know. If you think that others would like to receive copies please let us know and we will include them on the mailing lists.

Please contact us by [return email](mailto:senator.moore@aph.gov.au) or call on 07 3252 710.

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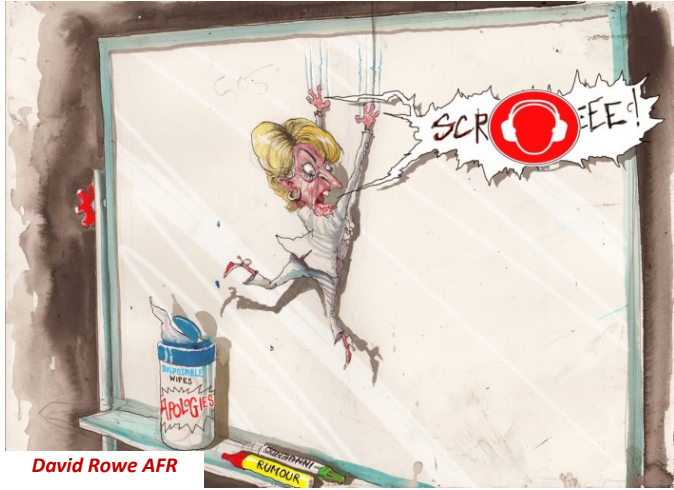
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WHAT'S BEING SAID ...



HUNT'S RANT – KING - SKY NEWS

"Well, that's what the minister has now admitted to but again it does seem to be a pattern. The fact that he's only admitted to these because the media has inquired about them and not because he thinks there is something wrong in behaving in this way. I think there's some questions that the Prime Minister has to ask – is this the sort of conduct becoming of a minister of the crown, does it meet his standards?"



David Rowe AFR

MICHAELIA CASH - PLIBERSEK – SKY NEWS

"She also misled the Senate five times. Last time she went to Senate Estimates and the last lot of Senate Estimates she hid behind a white board. This time she's refused to go to Senate Estimates. I think it is a bit rich for her to expect us to take her on faith in a press conference if she's not prepared to stand up in court, or stand up in the Senate and talk about her involvement or her office's involvement in this."

CASH'S DEFENCE- CHAMPION – SKY NEWS AM AGENDA

"A very short news conference, you would concede, full of bombast, full of blaming journalists, Unions, the Labor Party, Parliamentary Services. Blamed everybody else, not taking account for herself or her office pretty serious stuff I would have thought."

MICHAELIA CASH - O'CONNOR – C ANBERRA

"These are very serious matters. This is about whether in fact a genuine investigation by the Australian Federal Police would be compromised because of the leaking of information by a Minister's

office. The fact is this Government is lurching from crisis to crisis. A Minister refusing to answer questions in relation to this matter, a Minister who now refuses to turn up to Budget Estimates because she is not able to answer questions in relation to this matter."

"There is not a whiteboard big enough for Minister Cash to hide behind. She needs to answer these questions, and answer them fully to the Parliament - otherwise the Prime Minister should take action." - Brendan O'Connor

MICHAELIA CASH - CAMERON – CANBERRA

"I just find it outrageous that Michaelia Cash is still not prepared to be honest and open with the Australian public. We now see that hundreds of thousands of dollars are being spent on a cover up as to her involvement and the involvement of her office. We have got so called independent organisations spending taxpayers' money so that they can close this issue down. It's just unacceptable and if Malcolm Turnbull had any backbone, if he had any leadership ability, if he had any capacity to run that party he would stand her down or sack her"

GOVERNMENTS MISUSE OF POLICE - PLIBERSEK – SKY NEWS

"The Australian Federal Police have given evidence in Senate Estimates that their under resourcing means that they are not able to pursue narcotics or fraud or organised crime. They're actually cutting back on these investigations. The Government sics them onto the Australian Workers Union because they want a set of minutes from ten years ago from a union meeting and when they sic them onto the AWU they tip off journalists that there's going to be a raid, potentially compromising the very raid that they have engineered, and then the Minister lies about it in the Senate and refuses to face Senate Estimates, two Senate Estimates in a row. How can she be a Minister if she can't face Senate Estimates?"

SUPER CHANGES- THISTLETHWAITE – CANBERRA

"They want to replace those directors who have done a great job managing the assets and retirement incomes of Australian workers with the likes of people AMP and the various banks that have been giving evidence in the Royal Commission. Well, the average Australian worker will not cop that. They've seen what's gone on at the Royal Commission, they've seen the dastardly behaviour of the wealth management industry and the big banks when it comes to managing people's retirement nest eggs and they don't want a bar of it."

REDRESS -DREYFUS – ABC RN DRIVE

"It's not precisely the scheme that we would have negotiated with the states, and in particular, that issue about people with convictions being able to access the scheme is an important one. So too is the fact that the government has negotiated a cap of \$150,000 which is \$50,000 lower than the cap recommended by the Royal Commission. There's also an outstanding issue about continuing counselling which the Commission thought was a very, very important element of any redress scheme. Again, the Commonwealth has negotiated a scheme which puts a lifetime limit of \$5000 on counselling. We don't think that's anywhere near enough."

ONE NATION-CHAMPION – SKY NEWS AM AGENDA

"One moment they're for it, another against it and now their split. It was pretty obvious that Senator Hanson will back these corporate tax cuts; she is just waiting to get the Longman by-election out the way. So if the people of Longman want to stop big corporations, big banks getting a massive tax cut, while schools and hospitals is cut, well vote Labor."

ONE NATION -SHORTEN-CANBERRA

"A vote for the One Nation Party is a vote for the Liberal Party. A vote for the One Nation Party is a vote for corporate tax cuts for the big banks. A vote for One Nation is a vote to cut schools and hospitals"



Matt Golding The Age

ONE NATION - CHALMERS- SKY NEWS

"I think she has voted with the Government something like 90 per cent of the time. She is effectively an extension of the Liberal Party in the Senate."

FAMILY COURT - DREYFUS – ABC RADIO MELBOURNE

"We do accept there's a need for reform. There have been real problems in the family law system and they're problems that have been causing families pain."

FAMILY COURT - HUSAR- SKY NEWS

"What we need is for this Government to take responsibility that on their watch backlogs and the blow outs of waiting times has significantly increased. First of all they need to own up to that"

FAMILY COURT - DREYFUS – ABC RADIO MELBOURNE

"The government is responsible for not filling judicial vacancies that have appeared repeatedly over the past five years. We had to wait eight months in the case of Newcastle for a vacancy to be filled and other examples of four and six months for judicial vacancies to be filled. Funding hasn't increased in line with inflation since the Abbott government came to power. The blowout has occurred in the last five years, from 17,200 to 21,000 pending matters, and we need to see the evidence for this proposed near-abolition of the Family Court, the evidence that this will produce better outcomes for families, because that of course is what has to be the objective."

FAMILY COURT - HUSAR- SKY NEWS

"This reform that is being proposed is so problematic. They want to take all of the Family Law Court judges, who are specialists, role them into a super court, essentially looking to defund the Family Court, from what I can see from this, eventually and in time have no specialist judges sitting there, presiding over these complex and difficult cases, which often involve children, which more often than not involve children and complex property disputes."

FAMILY COURT- DREYFUS – ABC RN DRIVE

"I have expressed some concerns. I have expressed some concerns about the fact that the government didn't consult, it seems, with any judges other than the Heads of Jurisdictions. It doesn't seem to have consulted with families or family groups, or stakeholders in the family law system, family law practitioners - that's a concern."

CHILD CARE REFORMS -RISHWORTH – CANBERRA

"The figures today show that just under 50 per cent of families have not yet registered for the new child care subsidy with this coming into effect on 1 July- less than five weeks away. This is deeply concerning. The government needs to answer why it is they have not supported families transitioning to the new system and registering online. It is not good enough for the government to shirk its responsibility when they are making such fundamental changes. What will happen to these families come 1 July? Will they end up with out of pocket costs that they just cannot afford? Will they lose their subsidy? These are questions that the government must answer."

REDRESS -DREYFUS – ABC RN DRIVE

"It's not precisely the scheme that we would have negotiated with the states, and in particular, that issue about people with convictions being able to access the scheme is an important one. So too is the fact that the government has negotiated a cap of \$150,000 which is \$50,000 lower than the cap recommended by the Royal Commission. There's also an outstanding issue about continuing counselling which the Commission thought was a very, very important element of any redress scheme. Again, the Commonwealth has negotiated a scheme which puts a lifetime limit of \$5000 on counselling. We don't think that's anywhere near enough."

BHP SETTLES QLD GOVT TAX CASE – SWAN- ABC RADIO 612

"Transfer pricing relates to the use by BHP of a marketing hub in Singapore, where it simply shifts its profits, pretends value to those products is added in Singapore as it goes to China, even though the coal and iron ore is simply shipped straight from Queensland – or from Western Australia – to China. So this is an illegal activity. Transfer pricing is used around the world by many multinational companies to evade their responsibilities in taxation.

So why I think this is significant is because, by agreeing to pay the Queensland Government at least hundreds of millions of dollars, they have conceded that their transfer pricing activity is illegal – that is, it is tax evasion."

"BHP is rather sad for the country; it's supposed to be the Big Australian, but when it comes to these issues, it marks it as the Dishonest Australian. And I think a lot of people would be surprised that BHP is involved in this sort of activity, because you would expect better." - Wayne Swan

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"My mum is beautiful and she can lift anything"

12 year old Cooper Kelly on his mu, Loren, who after only three years in the sport has gone from a depressed and anxious person to be competing in the National Power Lifting Championships.

DOPE :

Medicinal Cannabis Products: Patient information – From the Therapeutic Goods

Administration (TGA) <https://www.tga.gov.au/community-qa/medicinal-cannabis-products-patient-information>



CRIMINAL CARTEL

Following an announcement made by ANZ to the ASX this morning regarding anticipated criminal cartel charges, the ACCC confirms that criminal cartel charges are expected to be laid by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) against ANZ, ANZ Group Treasurer Rick Moscati, two other companies and a number of other individuals. These charges will be laid following an investigation by the ACCC. ***“The charges will involve alleged cartel arrangements relating to trading in ANZ shares following an ANZ institutional share placement in August 2015,”*** ACCC Chairman Rod Sims said. ***“It will be alleged that ANZ and the individuals were knowingly concerned in some or all of the conduct.”***



THE TRUTH HURTS



Tax Commissioner Chris Jordan says the Australian Taxation Office has agreed to trial independent reviews when small businesses are in dispute with it. The move follows a joint Fairfax Media-Four Corners investigation into the agency. Appearing before a Senate estimates hearing yesterday, Mr Jordan took issue with the joint investigation's revelations of small-business taxpayers being harassed, intimidated and bullied by the agency, and then having insufficient avenues to appeal its decisions and get adequate compensation.

He took issue with the title of the ABC Four Corners episode, ***“A Mongrel Bunch of Bastards”***, and related story in Fairfax publications, as ***“highly offensive and inaccurate”***. ***“Why did the ABC think it was OK to call the staff of the ATO a mongrel bunch of bastards?”*** he asked MPs at the hearing. ***“I can assure you the people working at the ATO are not mongrels or bastards.”*** The title of the Four Corners episode came from a quote by someone interviewed for the media probe. Mark Freeman, whose business had been audited by the ATO, told the probe: ***“In dealing with the ATO, I've never come across such a mongrel bunch of bastards in my entire life.”***

This is what noted financial journalist Adele Ferguson of the Age had to say on the matter:

“Jordan might think that is old news, to these taxpayers it is a form of injustice. Jordan's spray is a tried and true way many organisations try to handle bad news: portray the allegations as limited to a few isolated cases, suggest they are old and therefore irrelevant or a different era, disparage the sources and use numbers to make it all seem small and trivial and therefore a monumental beat-up. It wasn't a beat-up. The ATO has a lot of power and power needs to be respected and there needs to be more transparency. There also needs to be a level playing field when it comes to the way the ATO treats all taxpayers and compensation needs to be overhauled.”



AUNTY

“Australians should not be fooled by the current battle being waged against public broadcasting. Fringe political interests, populists and commercial media all have a shared interest in weakening the ABC. Each would benefit in their own way from a poorer, less capable, less nosy and less relevant ABC. The question is whether the people of Australia would be better served. The overwhelming majority of Australians think not.” - Justin Milne - Chairman of the ABC. [According to numerous polls the ABC is, by a wide margin, the most trusted news organisation in the country with 80% of those polled agreeing Ed]

\$87.4 MILLION CUT EQUALS

“The proposals are just that at the moment, but what is being discussed could bring about the most radical changes for the corporation in decades. For example, one move being actively discussed is the merging of Radio National and ABC News Radio.

Another proposal is to close, or severely cut, Classic FM. Another area of possible cuts is in the regional radio and TV networks with offices and bureaus being closed (as regional TV and radio broadcasters have done such as WIN, Prime and Southern Cross).

More radical solutions could be to cut one of the ABC's TV channels — such as Kids or Comedy — and scheduling children's programming back on the main channel, as it was a few years ago, with News Breakfast being confined to ABC News, along with Insiders from Sunday mornings.”

AND HE LOOKS LIKE SUCH A NICE GUY!

Health Minister Greg Hunt has been forced to offer a grovelling apology to a 71-year-old grandma and mayor who says he unleashed a torrent of expletives and physically intimidated her.

Fay Miller, a former Country Liberal MP in the Northern Territory, says Mr Hunt told her she needed to ***“f---ing get over”*** herself during a private meeting last year. The Mayor of Katherine said the Cabinet minister leaned towards her, ***“pointed aggressively”*** in her face, said she needed to make NT Senator Nigel Scullion her ***“f---ing best friend”*** and then continued to swear. Ms Miller has written twice to Mr Hunt (pictured) seeking an explanation and an apology over the tirade. She also wrote to the Prime



Minister's Office this month detailing her claims. But she received no admissions or apology. However, two hours after media yesterday put detailed questions to the minister's office and the Prime Minister's office, Mr Hunt contacted Ms Miller and issued what was described as a ***“sincere and genuine”*** apology.

HOW THEY SPEND OUR MONEY

The union watchdog and the workplace regulator have spent more than \$600,000 of taxpayers' money to engage lawyers in the Australian Workers' Union raids case – which is still ongoing.

The two bodies – the Registered Organisations Commission and the Fair Work Commission – revealed the spending on Wednesday, the same day Jobs Minister Michaelia Cash was subpoenaed to front the Federal Court. Under questioning from Labor's Doug Cameron, Registered Organisations Commission (ROC) boss Mark Bielecki said the watchdog had spent \$434,646 to fight the case.

The money had gone to the law firm Ashurst and two barristers, he told a Senate Estimates hearing. Mr Bielecki confirmed the ROC's total budget was \$6.5 million, meaning the commission had spent about 7 per cent of its funding on legal fees for the one case.

... IN CONTRAST

Appearing at Senate estimates this week, new chair James Shipton and veteran commissioners like Peter Kell on behalf of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission justified its unwillingness to try to prosecute corporate criminals by insisting it must focus on the “**efficiency and strength**” of the financial system as well as its “**fairness and integrity**”. [I think the ‘as well as’ really means ‘instead of’ – Ed]

HOOVER INTELLIGENCE - Crikey

In a [Facebook post](#) this week, Wayne Swan criticised “**a series of leaks targeted at selected members of the Labor Party, which appear to have come from security agencies and others associated with an investigation ordered by the Prime Minister.**” “**It’s critical,**” Swan says, “**that the security agencies and the government get this discussion back onto a political framework that works in the interests of all Australians — not just the Liberal Party.**”

Since the Dastyari scandal broke, it’s been [clear that Australia’s security agencies](#) have been ready to drop material about politicians’ and ex-politicians’ links with Chinese interests into the public domain as part of a campaign against Chinese influence. It has also been clear that the government — whatever the public interest in curbing the noxious influence of the China Lobby and Beijing’s proxies here — has been eager to use the issues to attack Labor.

Indeed, this morning, the government’s own exposure on China was again in the spotlight, with Defence Minister Marise Payne explicitly repudiating Trade minister Steve Ciobo at an estimates hearing. Questioned by Labor’s shadow foreign minister Penny Wong about Ciobo’s [recent comments](#) at odds with government policy on China, that China’s militarisation of the South China Sea was “**a matter for China**”, Payne said “**no, it means the government is concerned about the militarisation of those features.**” There also remain legitimate questions about the role of former journalist and, temporarily, adviser to Turnbull, John Garnaut, who seems to have miraculously transformed into an eminent national security figure on relations with China.

WHITE SPOT

Movement restrictions are in place for high-risk animals such as prawns, yabbies and marine worms. This means they cannot be moved out of the white spot disease restricted area that extends from Caloundra to the NSW border and west to Ipswich, unless cooked first.

If you are using prawns as bait make sure they are Australian wild-caught from a quality bait supplier or catch your own. Using imported raw prawns as bait may introduce serious diseases into our waterways.

Check out these [great tips on how to catch your own bait](#) or download the [white spot disease information guide \(PDF, 2.3MB\)](#) for further details on white spot disease and movement restrictions.

See the map by going to: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1G8OsDMdGDr9GNIELIGQmSI77LSk&usp=sharing>

GET THE CRITICS - Crikey

“**What Alan Tudge and his bureaucrats at the Department of Human Services did to Andie Fox was contemptible and chilling. Fox had dared to publicly criticise DHS for its badly flawed Robodebt program. For that, she was singled out for exemplary punishment: the Department and Tudge obtained private information they held on Fox and her family and passed it to a blogger Paul Malone, who used it to criticise Fox in a piece for the Canberra Times.**”

Tudge, the bureaucrats, Malone and the editors of the Canberra Times have never been held accountable for this. Now, they never will be. In an astonishing [decision](#) that has taken more than a year, the acting Privacy Commissioner Angelene Falk has absolved Tudge and the bureaucrats, declaring (with no explanation) that they can use private information “**if the individual would reasonably expect it to do so.**”

“**Reasonably expect to do so.**” So, from now on, you can “**reasonably expect**” that the government has carte blanche to use your private information to publicly attack you should you dare to seek to hold it to account, under the guise of “**correcting the record**”. The goal is not, of course, to correct the record but to deter critics. The supposed independent privacy protections built into Commonwealth law will offer you no protection. Criticise the government; you can end up like Andie Fox, the details of your personal life spread by some blogger in your local rag.

It’s important to name the public servants involved in this, along with Tudge and his then-chief of staff Andrew Asten. They shouldn’t be able to hide their smug faces in anonymity: Secretary Kathryn Campbell; Deputy Secretary Jonathan Hutson; Chief Legal Counsel Annette Musolino; prolific departmental tweeter Hank Jongen.

All deserve to be permanently linked to this. Their contribution to public service in Australia will be that they used personal information about someone who dared criticise the government. One wonders how much they’d enjoy having their private information splashed across the Canberra Times.”



David Rowe AFR

BLUE LIES



Hearing of the 258,000 fake breathalyser test conducted by Victorian police and the response of the Victorian Police Association to the issue reminded me of the behaviour over many decades of the Queensland Police Association.

The Victorian Police Association secretary Wayne Gatt when interviewed about the fake tests had this to say; *"I don't think it's criminal. It's not fraud... no one is paid for the amount of tests they do. None of our members have a direct benefit from any of this. It's the wrong thing to do, but it's a far cry from criminality."* *What is it that these guys don't get? It's lying, it's dishonest and it's antithesis of what they supposedly and should stand fo*

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ONE NATION CIRCUS - Watt

The revelation that Pauline Hanson's long-time supporter, Senator Brian Burston, has broken ranks on company tax cuts is just the latest example of One Nation coming apart at the seams.

- Fraser Anning – Senator for Queensland – resigned from One Nation, 2017
- Malcolm Roberts – Senator for Queensland – disqualified, 2017
- Rodney Culleton – Senator for Western Australia – resigned, 2016
- John Fischer – Member of WA Legislative Council – resigned, 2004
- Frank Hough – Member of WA Legislative Council – resigned, 2004
- Paddy Embry – Member of WA Legislative Council – resigned, 2003
- Elisa Roberts – Member for Gympie – resigned, 2002
- Heather Hill – Senator for Queensland – disqualified, 1999
- Dorothy Platt – Member for Barambah – resigned, 1999
- Jeff Knuth – Member for Burdekin – resigned, 1999
- Bill Feldman – Member for Caboolture – resigned, 1999
- David Dagleish – Member for Hervey Bay – resigned, 1999
- Jack Paff – Member for Ipswich West – resigned, 1999
- Peter Prenzler – Member for Lockyer – resigned, 1999
- John Kingston – Member for Maryborough – resigned, 1999
- Shaun Nelson – Member for Tablelands – resigned, 1999
- Ken Turner – Member for Thuringowa – resigned, 1999
- Harry Black – Member for Whitsunday – resigned 1999
- David Oldfield – Member of NSW Legislative Council – expelled, 1999
- Carles Rappolt – Member for Mulgrave – quit the Parliament, 1998

Pauline Hanson's One Nation has always been a circus. It's never going to get any better. In the end, the people who are going to get hurt the most are the battlers who put their faith in One Nation.

NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME - Macklin/Dreyfus

Labor welcomes the announcement that the Catholic Church will join the national redress scheme for institutional survivors of child sexual abuse. This is an important milestone on the path to redress and justice for survivors, and it means we are one step closer to survivors getting the redress they deserve.

This is a particularly significant day for the thousands of people that have fought so long and so hard for redress and justice.

We particularly acknowledge Leonie Sheedy and everyone at the Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN), Chrissie Foster and her late husband Anthony Foster, and the many Australians who fought against the Catholic Church for so many years for the truth to be revealed.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse found that the scale and severity of abuse in the Catholic Church was appalling.

Between 1980 and 2015, there were more than 4,000 people who reported allegations of child sexual abuse to Catholic authorities. In total, the Royal Commission estimated that around 7 per cent of Catholic priests in Australia between 1950 and 2010 were accused of child sexual abuse.

The Royal Commission referred at least 300 matters relating to abuse in the Catholic institutions to the police.

The Catholic Church bears a huge responsibility, and it is welcome it has made the decision to be the first non-government institution to join the redress scheme. There is no excuse for any state government, church, institution or non-government organisation, not to join the national redress scheme where sexual abuse has occurred. We urge all remaining states and institutions to sign up to the scheme as soon as possible.

The Gillard Labor Government established the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in 2013.

We understand that no amount of money can make up for the pain and trauma experienced by survivors.

However redress is an important step along the road to healing for survivors.

For some especially good and powerful word on this subject go to two speeches' delivered in the House of Representatives

Shorten: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard/Hansard_Display?bid=chamber/hansardr/8cddb385-6fa0-4f98-a538-0bc61118fa6c/&sid=0078

Macklin: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard/Hansard_Display?bid=chamber/hansardr/8cddb385-6fa0-4f98-a538-0bc61118fa6c/&sid=0076



THE LAW

FAMILY COURT: SHOW US THE EVIDENCE - Dreyfus

Labor welcomes the government's acknowledgement of the crisis in the family court system, and the pain it is causing families caught up in it. This situation has been going for far too long, and has worsened on the government's watch.

Any change aimed at improving the experience of families when they are going through their toughest time must be given worthy consideration, and Labor will examine closely the government's legislation when it is presented.

However, the government has some explaining to do as to why it believes the effective abolition of the Family Court is the solution to the current crisis. It claims 8,000 more family law matters will be cleared every year – nearly 40 per cent of the current backlog. On what basis does it make this claim?

There is little detail as to how the "single point of entry" to the merged Federal Circuit Court and Family Court will work. Serious concerns have also been raised at the removal of the Appeals Division of the Family Court – which means that the toughest and most complex family law cases will no longer be heard by specialists.

Moreover, the government has not acknowledged several other factors that have contributed to the current backlogs in the court system – including judicial vacancies not filled for months, a funding crisis in legal assistance services and an increase in unrepresented litigants. Any solution to this crisis will not be complete if these factors are not addressed.

The government's proposal also does not address recommendations made by former Chief Justice of the Family Court Diana Bryant for a funding injection to provide for an increased number of registrars and family consultants, so that families can avoid having to go to court in the first place.

Finally, there has been some suggestion in recent media reporting, in the form of unattributed statements, that the current backlog is partly caused by judges not working hard enough, or allowing appeal judgments to be coloured by personal opinion. This is offensive to the hard-working judges of the Family Court, who do a very difficult job. It is time for such statements to stop

TO IMPROVE FAMILY LAW, FAMILY VIOLENCE MUST BE ADDRESSED – Terri Butler



The Attorney-General's announcement to combine the Family Court and Federal Circuit Court falls short of addressing family violence, Terri Butler said. "Family violence features in a high proportion of contested cases – 41%, according to former Family Court Chief Justice Diana Bryant, and any attempt to overhaul family law courts must acknowledge that," she said.

"Real change, not just administrative rearrangement, is needed to respond to this challenge.

"Cross examination reform must happen urgently. To work properly, cross-examination reform must be accompanied by legal assistance funding. That is why Labor has committed to providing more than \$40 million to protect victims and survivors from being cross-examined by alleged perpetrators personally – and instead providing for both parties to be legally represented.

"The government must also address judicial resourcing and appointments. Vacancies must be filled and capacity increased. In appointing new judges,

the government must address the present underrepresentation of women on the Federal Circuit Court, and must take into account experience in family law, and expertise in relation to, family violence.

"The government must take into account concerns expressed in the recent unanimous Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee report into family law and family violence, including the importance of improving arrangements in relation to family report writers.

"The government must also explain why the courts' family violence work plan, which expired in 2016, has not yet been updated, and commit to working with the new court to ensure that the family violence best practice principles are kept up to date with contemporary understandings of family violence, informed by the evidence-base being developed under the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children 2010 – 2022," Terri Butler said.

***** If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual assault or family violence, call [1800RESPECT](tel:1800RESPECT) on [1800 737 732](tel:1800737732) or visit www.1800RESPECT.org.au. In an emergency, call 000 *****

GREAT QLD RESPONSE TO FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – Terri Butler

Federal Labor welcomes the Palaszczuk Government's announcement of an additional \$133 million to respond to family and domestic violence. We congratulate the Police Minister Mark Ryan and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Di Farmer on the announcement of 24 new specialist Police officers across the state, to be backed with a \$133 million commitment to assist victims and survivors.

The announcement of additional refuges is particularly welcome, as is the support for frontline services.

Overall the Palaszczuk Government is investing \$328.9 million over six years from 2015-16 to implement the recommendations from the [Not Now, Not Ever](#) report.

Federal Labor has committed more than \$130 million to respond to family violence. Labor's commitments include:

- \$88 million for a Safe Housing Fund to increase housing options for women and children escaping domestic and family violence;
- \$43 million for legal assistance in family law proceedings to ensure victims of violence can't be cross-examined by perpetrators;
- Providing a workplace right to ten days' paid domestic violence leave;
- Making image-based abuse a crime, and criminalising the covert installation of surveillance apps;
- Reporting to the Parliament on progress addressing family violence as part of the annual gender equality update.

ECONOMY

MORRISON TAKES AUSTRALIAN SHOPPERS OFFLINE- Bowen/Leigh/Husic

The announcement from Amazon that it will no longer allow Australians to access its international sites is an utter embarrassment for the Treasurer and shows how the Government's stuff up of these changes will reduce consumer choice. Amazon has announced that due to implementation difficulties associated with the government's legislated model of GST collection on product purchases under \$1000, Australians shoppers will from 1 July this year no longer be able to purchase goods on Amazon overseas sites such as amazon.com and amazon.co.uk.

Online platforms like Amazon have previously warned these sorts of changes would occur if the Government pressed ahead with its preferred model of GST collection on small parcels.

This is a direct response to how the Government has sought to implement this reform.

This is a slap in the face for Australian consumers already struggling with the cost of living who will now not be able to seek out potentially cheaper products on overseas Amazon sites.

Less purchasing choice means higher prices for Australian consumers at a time when they are struggling with record low wages growth and cost of living pressures. Due to the Government's incompetence Australian customers will now have access to only a fraction of the estimated 500 million products available on international sites like Amazon.com, potentially driving up the costs of everyday goods.

Just last year despite the obstruction of the Treasurer Labor forced the Government to delay the commencement of this GST legislation while the Productivity Commission undertook a short review, due to the obvious difficulties associated with the Government's proposed implementation model. The Productivity Commission's conclusion was hardly a ringing endorsement of the Government's preferred model, it stated "*the legislated model is the most feasible at this time*".

Labor has always agreed that there should be a level playing field for domestic and offshore retailers when it comes to the GST, but has consistently pointed out the shortfalls and problems with the Government's proposed implementation.

It is clear if Australian consumers are going to lose out because of Morrison's GST collection model, it will fall to a Labor Government to fix it.

COMMITTEE BACKS MORE TAX TRANSPARENCY, HUMILIATES SLOMO-Bowen/Leigh

The Senate report into multinational tax avoidance has backed Labor's call to bring more firms out of the shadows and into the sunlight.

Labor already has a [Private Senator's Bill](#) in Parliament to restore a key Labor Government transparency measure. We call on all parties to support this important bill.

In June 2013, the Gillard Government passed laws requiring that for all public and private firms with turnover above \$100 million, the tax office should annually report their total income, taxable income and tax payable.

In 2015, the Coalition disgracefully raised the threshold for private companies to \$200 million, taking two-thirds of private firms out of the disclosure process.

Labor voted against this measure, a vote that the Coalition untruthfully misrepresent as opposing the Multinational Anti-Avoidance Law.

This dodgy deal took two-thirds of the private companies out of the spotlight and back into the darkness.

In another major embarrassment for Scott Morrison, Coalition Senators through this Senate report have endorsed taking the threshold for private companies back to \$100 million.

The Senate report says:

"The public's ability to scrutinise and question tax affairs is vital to build and maintain confidence and trust in the integrity of the tax system."

Australians want more tax transparency. Only Labor will deliver.

BACKGROUND:

- ***The Gillard Government passed tax transparency reforms in June 2013.***
- ***In October 2015, the Australian Parliament changed income tax transparency laws to remove the reporting requirements for Australian-owned private companies with total annual income of more than \$100 million.***
- ***In November 2015, the Greens and the Liberals raised the transparency threshold for private companies from \$100 million to \$200 million.***

TREASURY REFUSES TO DENY WORKING ON IMPUTATION REFORM OPTIONS - Bowen

New evidence today has emerged that demonstrates Labor's calls for the Treasurer to come out and explain what work Treasury has undertaken looking at reforming dividend imputation. When asked at a Senate Estimates hearing today whether work has been undertaken looking into reforming dividend imputation, the Treasury refused to answer five separate questions on the matter.

The Treasury was not able to say whether they had worked on reform options for the Government or had been examining or costing Labor's policy to reform dividend imputation refundability. The Treasurer has apparently "***never entertained***" the idea of reforming dividend imputation, yet his own department can't rule out doing work on these issues.

This comes on the back of the recent revelations in the Harradine List which shows that Treasury created an entire file dedicated to dividend imputation, and 71 pages of work.



This Treasurer argued there were excesses in negative gearing yet got rolled by his Cabinet and now resorts to childlike shrill scare campaigns on Labor's housing policies.

And now its ground hog day. Clearly the Treasurer and his department have "entertained" reform to dividend imputation, but again shied away from important economic reform, instead resorting to more lies about Labor's policies.

The Treasurer should come clean immediately on what work his department was doing on dividend imputation and what he knew about it.

SENATE ESTIMATES – TREASURY – WEDNESDAY, 30 MAY 2018

LABOR SENATOR CHRIS KETTER: *Is it fair... then to say that Treasury has done no work on proposals to reform dividend imputation over the past two years?*

DEPUTY SECRETARY: *Senator I have to take that question on notice.*

KETTER: *I understand that you've consulted with stakeholders on options to reform dividend imputation?*

DEPUTY SECRETARY: *I'm not aware of it but I will take it on notice.*

KETTER: *Okay, now on the Treasury website, the so-called how Harradine list, it lists documents created between 1 January 2017 and 30 June 2017. One of those documents is called 2017RG383-1341 taxation and income support advice, tax policy dividend invitation. Are you familiar with that?*

DEPUTY SECRETARY: *I'm not familiar that specific file but I would simply make the observation that we provide advice to government on a whole range of policy issues.*

KETTER: *Well that file contains 16 documents totalling 71 pages according to FOI. Of those 71 pages and 16 documents would any of them provide advice or entertain reform options or areas of further investigation?*

DEPUTY SECRETARY: *Senator I have to take that question on notice.*

KETTER: *Okay, well there might be a number of questions here but did any of those documents provide estimates on the revenue cost of refundable excess imputation credits?*

DEPUTY SECRETARY: *I'll have to take that question on notice*

KETTER: *Has the Treasurer's office given Treasury a request to cost to options to reform the refundability of dividend imputation?*

DEPUTY SECRETARY: *Have to take that question on notice.*

SLOMO'S BUILD-TO-RENT DEBACLE MUST BE BROUGHT TO AN END-Bowen

Here we are eight months on and Scott Morrison has yet to fix a major bungle of his own making having unilaterally banned the 'build-to-rent' sector with multi-billion dollar ramifications for the Australian property market. The benefits of the build to rent are obvious, it will increase housing supply and increase the stock of rental accommodation – that's got to be a good thing.

Not only did Morrison give no notice of the move, but there's been tumbleweeds ever since with no further Treasury consultation processes, draft or final legislation, no mention in the Budget either, just a whole lot of angry chest beating from Mr Morrison who frankly should have known better. The unilateral move meant that **Managed Investment Trusts** will no longer be able to invest in residential property with the exception of affordable housing from 4:30pm on 14 September 2017.

This Government by press release is bad government. There should be legislation before the Parliament seeking to enact these changes, so we can properly debate and deliberate upon the future of build to rent.

Morrison is treating the property sector with utter contempt and a disregard, and it's bad for certainty and investment.

To compound the poor handling, Treasury's Revenue Group at Senate Estimates today had no idea about the progress or otherwise of this announcement and whether we'd see legislation anytime soon.

Mr Morrison likes to think he knows the Australian property sector well and so he should acknowledge he got this call horribly wrong

LIBERAL PARTY GIVES TAX DEDUCTION FOR SUPERANNUATION THEFT! - Bowen

The Prime Minister and the Turnbull Government has today been caught out protecting dodgy bosses who fail to pay superannuation to their employees. Last week the Government sneakily introduced legislation that gives a 12-month "amnesty" to employers who pay superannuation guarantee payments that they have failed to pay since 1 July 1992.

Usually, when employers do not meet their superannuation guarantee obligations they can be liable for penalties and charges. These include a superannuation guarantee charge (which is NOT tax-deductible) and additional penalties of up to 200 percent of the amount of the superannuation guarantee charge.

The Turnbull Government's proposed changes mean an employer could have kept superannuation entitlements from an employee for more than 25 years, and will not face any penalty if they pay it back during the amnesty.

Even worse, under the Government's proposed amnesty, the superannuation guarantee charge will also be tax deductible for employers – so dodgy employers get a tax break for doing the wrong thing.

The Prime Minister had absolutely no idea of these moves when asked about it by the Leader of the Opposition in Question Time today.

Only someone as out of touch as Malcolm Turnbull would reward dodgy businesses who have been robbing workers for 25 years. Businesses who do the wrong thing and steal from workers should pay the price for their misconduct, not get another tax break from Malcolm Turnbull.

This 'amnesty' for dodgy employers comes completely from left field, got no mention in the Budget, but was presumably a '**decision taken but not yet announced**', and there's no recent parliamentary reports into unpaid super guarantee that has actually recommended such a measure.

Labor's caucus determined to amend the Government's legislation so that dodgy bosses don't get away with ripping off their workers.

Superannuation theft is just as bad as wages theft. Why should dodgy employers get away with stealing hard-earned money from their employees? **When employees steal from employers, they rightly have the book thrown at them. Why is it one rule for business and another rule for everyone else?**

TREASURY CONFIRM THEY AREN'T ALLOWED TO RELEASE TAX DATA - Bowen

Treasury has belled the cat on the Government's secrecy when it comes to the breakdown of the fiscal costs of their income tax plan. When asked at an Economics Senate Estimates hearing this morning about whether there was year-by-year data on the fiscal costs of the Government's income tax plan, the Treasury confirmed the data exists but that due to "heightened uncertainty" around medium term figures they did not want to release them.

LABOR SENATOR JENNY MCALLISTER: *But you have them [the year on year projections], you are choosing not to release them for the reasons you have explained?*

DEPUTY SECRETARY: *Yes, that's correct.*

SECRETARY: *That's correct.*

The revelation that Treasury will not release figures surrounding the Government's plan mean two possible things:

1. **the numbers are so unreliable that Labor should not rely on them to make decisions about the government's tax cuts that come into force in 6 years' time; or**
2. **the government is deliberately politicising the Treasury and running interference of gaining more transparency of the Government's tax cuts**

Three weeks ago the Government released its income tax plan, but since then has engaged in a war of secrecy about the fiscal impacts of their plan beyond the forward estimates in the budget. Labor has rightly called for the year-by-year costs of the Government's package given that the largest and costliest elements of the package come into force over the medium term.

Treasury highlights the "**heightened uncertainty**" with figures over the medium term, yet the Government wants Labor to sign up to expensive tax cuts that come into force in 6 years' time when economic conditions are unknown.

What we do know from Treasury analysis today is that **when it comes to stage 3 of the government's tax cuts, the entire \$42 billion accrues to the top 20% income earners, which justifies concern about this element of the tax plan.**

When it comes to stage 3 of the Government's plan, it would appear the Government is on an ideological frolic, not focused on delivering tax relief to middle income earners. If the Government wants the Senate to seriously consider its tax cuts, it should stop the interference, stop the politicisation of Treasury and cough up the detail which we know exists.

SLOMO'S PAY DAY LENDING FARCE SEES ANOTHER DELAY - Bowen

The Turnbull Government's pay day lending reforms that were meant to be introduced to Parliament in the first quarter of this year appear to have been shelved indefinitely, leaving vulnerable Australians to be ripped off with no protection from the government. These vital financial services reforms are needed to implement reforms that would improve protections for consumers of payday loans and rent-to-buy schemes.

In February, Government officials said the legislation would be introduced in the Autumn session of Parliament which ended in April, but it never appeared. This week in Budget estimates the same Treasury officials said they are now not sure when the legislation will be introduced and introduction timing is a "**matter for government**".

Morrison needs to stop protecting dodgy payday lenders and rent-to-buy scheme operators and introduce this legislation as a matter of urgency. **ScoMo** protected these operators by excluding them from the Royal Commission and he is now unnecessarily delaying legislation that would pull them into line and help protect vulnerable Australians that are being preyed upon.

Once again, it's the conservative backbench, including the Parliamentary Friends of Payday Lending, setting this Government's agenda, not the Cabinet, not the relevant Ministers, and certainly not the Prime Minister. Turnbull, Morrison and Sukkar need to deliver on their promises, and put the interests of consumers who are getting ripped off before the interests of their mates at the big end of town.

INDEPENDENT REPORT SLAMS LACK OF TRANSPARENCY – Chalmers/O'Connor/Hill

A new independent report has laid bare the Turnbull Government's lack of transparency when it comes to the way taxpayers' money is being used in the public service. The [Draft Report of the PGPA Act 2013 and Rule Independent Review](#) released today is scathing of the current lack of transparency around the use of contractors and consultants and the reporting of executive remuneration for Government entities. On the use of contractors and consultants, it found:

"Current arrangements for reporting spending on contracts and consultancies do not provide sufficient transparency to the Parliament and citizens." (p. 6)

And on reporting of executive remuneration it found:

"Current arrangements for reporting executive remuneration across Commonwealth entities and companies does not provide sufficient transparency and accountability for the use of public resources for this purpose." (p. 5)

It's well past time for Malcolm Turnbull and Mathias Cormann to reveal just how much taxpayer money they are wasting through labour-hire firms instead of hiring permanent staff. **The report's recommendations validate the current major inquiry by the Government-controlled JCPAA looking into these issues.** Labor has already committed to greater transparency concerning the use of contractors, consultants and labour-hire firms in the public service, and it's time the Turnbull Government got on board too.

On executive remuneration, Labor has already committed to the report's recommendations, they're consistent with the Auditor-General's views (p. 9), and the overhaul was a key recommendation in a [Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit report](#) as well.

The Liberals made amendments which created the problem in the first place – a loophole that subsequently allowed Australia Post to avoid disclosing the former CEO's salary of \$5.6 million in its annual report. The Liberals have since informally asked some Commonwealth entities to revert back to the previous reporting regime, but these half-hearted, piecemeal requests don't go far enough. If the Turnbull Government doesn't act on this, a Shorten Labor Government will.

Taxpayers have a right to know how much of their money is going to contractors, consultants and well-paid executives, and it's about time the Liberals realised that.



WORKERS

INSECURE WORK ON THE RISE – O'Connor

Research from the Australia Institute is yet another confirmation of the increasing precarious nature of work. The Report, [The Dimensions of Insecure Work: A Factbook](#), is an analysis of ABS data and points to the fact that less than half of employed Australians hold a permanent full-time paid job and says that *“the problem of insecure work has become noticeably worse since 2012”*.

At the same time, part-time employment grew over the five year period between 2012 -2017 reaching almost 31.7 per cent of all jobs. The report states, *“the 2017 part time employment share was the highest in Australia’s history; and while the part-time employment rate fell somewhat later in the year, it has been growing again in 2018.”* With insecure work, record low wages growth, and skyrocketing cost of living pressures, Australians are feeling the pinch.

The Turnbull Government hasn’t done a single thing to address the growing incidence of insecure and casualised work. In fact, they are so out of touch that they try to pretend it isn’t happening. Turnbull and his Liberals have failed to acknowledge these challenges, let alone come up with any policy initiatives to deal with them.

Labor will continue to lead on policies for decent jobs - and will continue to listen to workers about what they are experiencing in the workplace. We committed at the last election to examine the definition of *“casual”* work and to set an objective test for determining when a worker is casual, to introduce a national labour hire licensing scheme and to crack down on sham independent contracting.

The Turnbull Government on the other hand support cuts to wages through slashing penalty rates, argue against increasing the minimum wage, and focus all their energy on advocating for an \$80billion tax cut to the big end of town.

CASH COVER UP CONTINUES – O'Connor

In Senate Estimates this week, Minister Cash continued the outrageous cover up of her and her office’s involvement in the leaks to the media of the Registered Organisation Commission raid on the AWU.

Senator Cash refused to share with estimates whether she is cooperating with a federal police investigation. She was not even prepared to answer whether or not she has volunteered to make a statement to or has been interviewed by the AFP.

SENATOR CAMERON: *So Minister you’re not prepared to even answer basic questions on your involvement at all, is that correct?*

SENATOR CASH: *Senator Cameron I’ve addressed these questions on numerous occasions and I have nothing further to add.*

[SENATE ESTIMATES, TUESDAY, 29 MAY 2019]

The Australian public deserve to know if a Cabinet Minister is cooperating with a police investigation. It has now been seven months since the Turnbull Government’s politicisation of regulatory agencies was sensationally exposed by a leak to the media of the ROC raid on the AWU.

It is seven months since Minister Cash misled the Senate five times by falsely denying that her office was the source of the leak. It is seven months since the AFP launched a criminal investigation into the leak. **Yet, Minister Cash is still hiding from scrutiny and the cover up continues.**

In Senate Estimates last week, AFP Commissioner Andrew Colvin confirmed it is normal practice for the AFP to speak to anyone who has relevant information to an investigation. Considering Minister Cash received a confession from her former staff member, if the AFP hasn’t sought to interview Minister Cash it would be out of the ordinary.

As a matter of urgency the Minister should end this cover up and answer whether she has cooperated with an AFP investigation.

Senator Cash’s conduct is treating the Parliament and the Australian people with contempt.

BIRMINGHAM DODGES BLAME FOR \$24.1M I.T. FIASCO – Cameron/Husic

Simon Birmingham and his Assistant Minister Karen Andrews must accept full responsibility for the Australian Apprenticeship Management System IT failure that has blown out to \$24.1 million.

Based on the government’s own figures this would have paid for an additional 2,459 apprentices. Instead the Ministers have wasted \$24.1 million on a five year program with nothing to show for it.

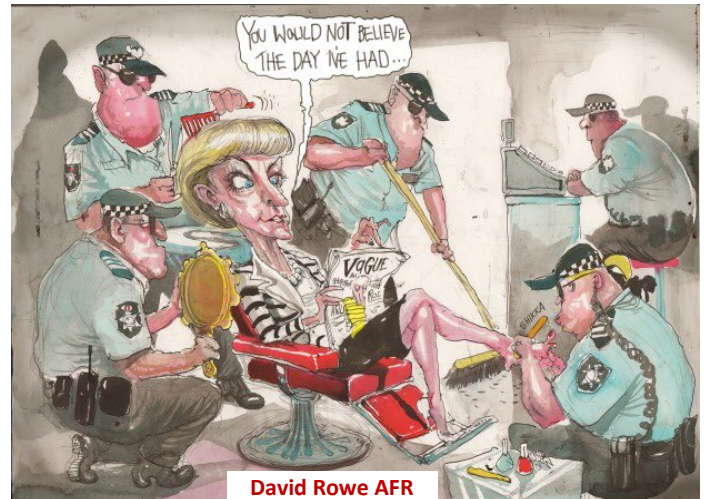
But instead of being held to account, the Ministers have shifted the blame on to two senior public servants who have resigned in the wake of the IT debacle.

Ministers Birmingham and Andrews must come clean about how much it will now cost to deliver a modern IT infrastructure for the apprenticeship system. They need to explain why after five years what started out as a \$9.6 million IT project ended up costing almost three times as much, with nothing to show for it.

Answers at Senate Estimates today confirmed the full extent of the disastrous mismanagement of the project by Minister Birmingham and Assistant Minister Andrews.

On top of the \$24.1 million, up to an additional \$1.8 million will now have to be spent to “maintain the current capability” of the original 1999 system with officials conceding they don’t even know what it will now cost to bring the IT platform into the 21 century.

Minister Birmingham and Assistant Minister Andrews must accept responsibility for this waste of taxpayer funds, assure the public that it won’t happen again, and clarify how much more money will be spent to deliver a modern system to support apprenticeships.



David Rowe AFR

ETHICS

GOVERNMENT BOOKS IN \$450K PRE-ELECTION ADVERTISING BLITZ - Carr

Senate Estimates has revealed that the Turnbull Liberals are preparing to spend \$450,000 on a pre by-election advertising campaign to sell the largely unknown Industry Growth Centres initiative. Officials confirmed the money will be spent by the Department of Industry in the next two months - right before the super Saturday by-elections take place on 28 July.

The government already spends \$673,000 per year on the Growth Centres' communications team. Despite this, the Department [forked out \\$250,000](#) of taxpayers' money for consultants to create a Facebook page for the Industry Growth Centres.

This is after another \$78,000 was dished out to another consultancy to investigate how many businesses had heard about the initiative. Departmental officials confirmed that the research undertaken by Woolcott found *"There was low recognition of the Growth Centres initiative and low awareness of opportunities to engage with individual Growth Centres"*.

After 3 years and \$120 million spent on the Program, this admission is extraordinary, especially given at least one of the Growth Centre's CEOs is on a salary of \$485,000 per annum. The evidence provided exposes just how desperate this government is – throwing endless taxpayer dollars away in an attempt to convince the public that they have an industry plan.

The Turnbull Liberals are champions of masterly inactivity when it comes to Australian industry policy and jobs. But Australians see through this expensive façade – only Labor can be trusted when it comes to Aussie jobs.

LIBS TELLING PORKIES ABOUT SNOOTS IN THE TROUGH - Marles/Carr/Kelly

Senate Estimates revealed the Government lied about how much Liberals are paying a failed colleague in a mates-rates job.

On 9 April, the Government announced David Johnston, a man most famous for talking down Australia's defence industry, as the first Australian Defence Export Advocate.

On 16 May, the President of the Senate received a letter from the Defence Minister saying that Mr Johnston's remuneration for this position would be nil.

The Defence Department confirmed that in fact Mr Johnston would be paid, but refused to release the details, claiming that information was commercial in confidence.

This was a shameless appointment of a Liberal mate to a job he was plainly unqualified for, and it's been backed up with a shameless lie.

It's time the Minister stood up and explained.

LATEST FAKE NEWS: GOVT IS *NOT* CUTTING THE ABC - Rowland

After lying to the Australian people about whether they would cut the ABC's budget, the Liberals are now denying that they are, once again, cutting the ABC's budget.

In Parliament this week a string of Liberal and National MPs stood up and tried to claim that the freeze on the ABC's indexation is not, in fact, a cut. **Here are the facts:**

- **Fact:** Since Tony Abbott's specific promise of "No cuts to the ABC", on the eve of the 2013 election, the Liberals have cut the ABC's budget three times.
- **Fact:** Malcolm Turnbull slashed the ABC's budget by \$254 million in 2014, by \$28 million in 2016 and announced a further cut of \$83.7 million in 2018.
- **Fact:** Budget Paper No. 2 of 2018-19 states that the pause on indexation of the ABC's operational funding "will result in savings to the Budget of \$83.7 million".

Savings at the ABC's expense. In other words: **a cut.**

The ABC Managing Director has said that the latest cuts *"would make it very difficult for the ABC to meet its charter requirements and audience expectations"* and *"could not be absorbed by efficiency measures alone"*.

Yet, at Budget Estimates this week, Minister Fifield defended his characterisation of the cuts as part of '[Strengthening Australia's connectivity, creativity and cultural heritage](#)':

Senator Urquhart: Can you tell me how does cutting \$83.7 million from the ABC's budget strengthen Australia's connectivity, creativity and cultural heritage?

Senator Fifield: I don't think seeking a Commonwealth agency to be the best steward it can of taxpayer dollars is in any way at odds with strengthening connectivity, creativity and cultural heritage.

The Liberals lied about cutting the ABC's funding in 2013, they deny they're cutting the ABC's funding now, and they expect you to believe budget cuts strengthen, rather than weaken, the ABC. No amount of Orwellian doublespeak will fool the Australian pub.

For Bill Shorten's speech to Parliament re the Government's war on the ABC go to:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard/Hansard_Display?bid=chamber/hansardr/05d76153-5ea4-4e05-b596-25ed99be938f/&sid=0000

HOME AFFAIRS

HOME AFFAIRS MINISTERS STUMP UP WITH NO ANSWERS - Neumann

Home Affairs Ministers have been caught out ducking and weaving simple questions about their portfolios following consideration-in-detail of the Appropriations Bill in Parliament.

Questions about the future of visa processing services, parent visas, citizenship delays, the creation of Home Affairs and Australian Border Force vessels were put to Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Peter Dutton and Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs Alan Tudge by Labor's Shadow Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Shayne Neumann.

Minister Alan Tudge had no answers to any of Labor's questions about planned reform of visa processing services which has been described by concerned frontline visa processing workers as the privatisation of visa services.

The Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs has been charged with visa operations and visa reform, but couldn't or wouldn't answer basic questions about delays in creating the conservatives long promised new temporary parent visa or blowouts in citizenship processing times.

This poor performance in the Federation Chamber, follows confirmation in Home Affairs Senate Estimates that:

- Migration is responsible for more than 50% of the 'million new jobs' the Turnbull Government claims it has created over the last five years;
- Peter Dutton will now spend \$7 million of tax payers money reviewing his own mega department;
- It will cost \$3 million to repair the Australian Border Force's *Roebuck Bay* Bay Class vessel after its hull was torn off when it struck the Great Barrier Reef;
- ABF's Fast Response Boat *Buri Buri* has scraped a reef following navigation equipment issues on this new vessel;
- Despite all the Minister's bluster, there are no plans to offer special attention to visa applications by South African farmers;
- After creating panic by threatening to cut off Status Resolution Support Service payments for more than 12,000 people, the department still doesn't know how many people will be impacted by Minister Dutton's decision to change the eligibility criteria; and
- Refugees in Manus Island and Nauru are no longer waiting for the Turnbull Government and have taken third country resettlement into their own hands, with three refugees arranging their own resettlement in Canada and another ten other refugees actively pursuing resettlement in other countries.

Home Affairs Senate Estimates confirmed what we've known all along, as Minister for Home Affairs responsible for immigration; Peter Dutton is a tick and flick Minister incapable of managing his own department.

EDUCATION

TURNBULL'S \$6 MILLION SCHOOL ADVERTISING SLUSH FUND-Plibersek

Malcolm Turnbull wants to spend \$6 million of taxpayers' money on advertising his unfair schools policy even though the education department has no idea why it's needed and when it would be spent.

Senator Jacinta Collins: *On what basis was it determined that the further \$6 million to funding was required?*

Education department: *Senator that was a decision of government.*

Collins: *I think on an earlier discussion, we had a discussion on what the current funds were being used for, was there a further leg to the campaign added on?*

Education department: *Senator, the government decided to allocate funding for further campaign activity...*

Collins: *When you say that the government decided to allocate funds for further campaign activity, what type of campaign activity was envisaged? It's just a honeypot, is it?*

Education department: *Senator, it was a decision in the budget context to allocate further funding.*

Collins: *Yes, and I'm asking you to expand on what's intended. It's not just a honeypot that can be hidden as a decision of government.*

Education department ... *I'm not trying to be unhelpful we just simply haven't got any decisions yet in terms of how that money will be expended.*

Collins: *But the budget provided that money.*

Education department: *The budget made a decision to allocate a further \$6 million.*

Collins: *And when do you envisage the next campaign might commence?*

Education department: *...That is still a decision to be taken by government.*

Collins: *When do you envisage that this will go before the committee, the ICC?*

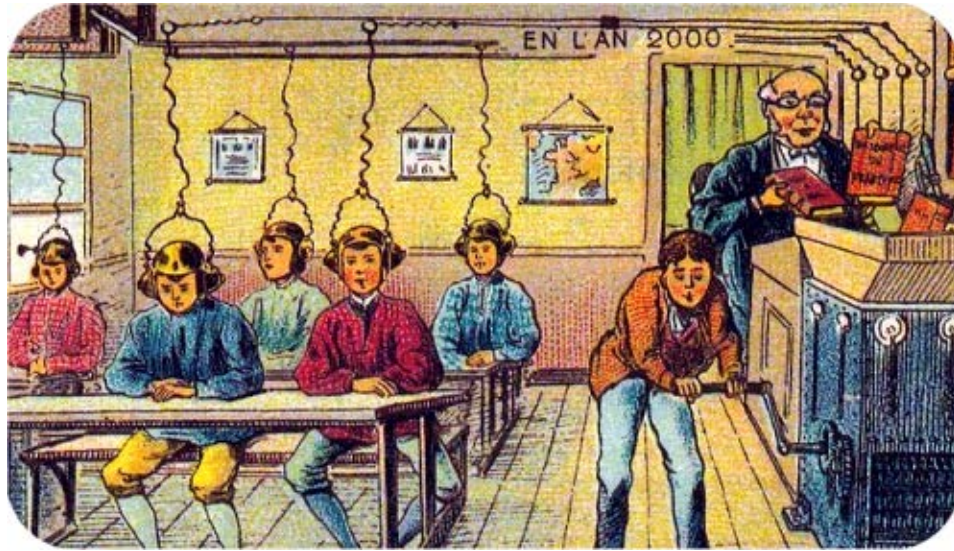
Education department: *We have no specific dates, yet... [Senate Estimates, 31 May 2018]*

We can only conclude that Mr Turnbull has created a \$6 million pre-election school advertising slush fund. The \$6 million comes on top of the \$9 million of taxpayers' money the Liberals have already spent on advertising their unfair schools policy. The Liberals' school advertising campaign is designed to mislead parents and teachers by presenting Malcolm Turnbull's \$17 billion of school cuts as a great thing. **It is an arrogant, sneaky abuse of taxpayers' money.**

Mr Turnbull should drop his \$6 million of advertising and spend it on our schoolkids instead. Malcolm Turnbull can find \$6 million for a misleading school advertising campaign, but he can't find the money to properly fund schools. **Mr Turnbull can find \$17 billion to give to the big banks in tax cuts, but he can't find \$17 billion to properly fund schools.**

Australians deserve better than a government that cuts money from schools to give it to banks. As a former banker, Mr Turnbull will always put banks before schools.

LIBERALS' SCHOOL CUTS COVER-UP- Pliberseck



Malcolm Turnbull's \$17 billion of school cuts are so unpopular the Liberals have refused to release details about just how badly schools will be hurt.

At a Senate hearing this week, the Liberals were asked to provide up to date information about the impact of their school cuts. They refused to do so, despite the fact similar information has routinely been provided in the past.

This is a blatant cover-up, and the Liberals have been caught out. Mr Turnbull is so arrogant he doesn't think parents and teachers deserve to know how much he's ripping from their local schools.

Australians deserve better than a government that cuts money from schools to give it to banks. And they deserve better than an out-of-touch government that tries to keep it secret.

Malcolm Turnbull can find \$17 billion to give to the big banks in tax cuts, but he can't find \$17 billion to properly fund schools.

As a former banker, Mr Turnbull will always put banks before schools.

His priorities are all wrong.

ENVIRONMENT

INQUIRY INTO GOVT'S MISHANDLING OF PFAS ESTABLISHED- Marles/Brodtmann

The Turnbull Government's disgraceful response to PFAS contamination issues will finally be investigated, with today's establishment of a Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade inquiry.

It is almost two years since Labor released its [policy](#) to address PFAS contamination. In the absence of their own policy, the Turnbull Government adopted Labor's plan but have failed to implement a national, coordinated approach.

Communities dealing with PFAS contamination deserve better than this Government's mishandling of such an important issue.

Labor has been fighting to get the Government to act – they could have agreed to this inquiry months ago.

The terms of reference for the inquiry are:

- **The Committee shall inquire into the Commonwealth Government's management of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in and around Defence bases, with particular reference to:**
- **the extent of contamination in and around Defence bases, including water, soil, other natural assets and built structures;**
- **the response of, and coordination between, agencies of the Commonwealth Government, including, but not limited to, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of Health, the Department of the Environment and Energy, the Department of Defence and the Australian Defence Force;**
- **communication and coordination with state and territory governments, local councils, affected local communities and businesses, and other interested stakeholders;**
- **the adequacy of health advice and testing of current and former defence and civilian personnel and members of the public exposed in and around Defence bases identified as potentially affected by contamination;**
- **the adequacy of Commonwealth and state and territory government environmental and human health standards and legislation, and any other relevant legislation;**
- **remediation works at the bases; and**
- **what consideration has been given to understanding and addressing any financial impact to affected businesses and individuals.**

Any solution must be a national solution and must address all 23 Defence sites. Labor looks forward to the inquiry answering many of the questions asked by PFAS-affected communities across Australia.

ENERGY POLICY

LIBERALS REFUSED TO ACT ON POSSIBLE ELECTRICITY TAX RORTING – Mark Butler

Budget Estimates yesterday confirmed the Abbott-Turnbull Government was asleep at the wheel on possible tax rorting of electricity customers by as much as \$400 million per year, until the Australian Energy Regulator took the matter into its own hands and initiated its Review. In stunning testimony, the Australian Energy Regulator (AER), responsible for administering the tax arrangements through which network businesses charge households for their tax liabilities, admitted:

- **The Government did not inform the AER that South Australian Energy Minister raised possible rorting in February 2015,**
- **The Government again failed to raise possible rorting with the AER when raised by the Victorian energy Minister in early 2018,**
- **The AER established a working group to investigate possible rorting in August 2017, based on its own initiative and not a decision or direction from Minister Frydenberg,**
- **The AER established its Review to investigate rorting in mid-May, again not as the result of Minister Frydenberg's initiative, but their own.**
- **This testimony confirms the Turnbull Government's attitude to possible rorting of energy customers by as much as \$400 million per year is no different from their attitude to the Banking Royal Commission; ignore the problem, hope it goes away, and once an investigation has been initiated by someone else, claim the credit.**

Both the South Australian Government and the Victorian Government warned the Abbott-Turnbull Government about possible rorting, yet Minister Frydenberg and his predecessor did nothing to inform the relevant agency, let alone take action to investigate the claims and ensure customers aren't being ripped off.

Yet when the AER initiated review into possible rorting was announced, Minister Frydenberg has happy to take credit, declaring *"The Turnbull government wants to ensure consumers are paying no more for their energy than they have to"*

If the Liberal Government was serious about ensuring Australian electricity customers weren't paying more for their energy than they had to, they would have taken action based on the letter from then South Australian Energy Minister Koutsantonis, in February 2015. Had they done so, they may have saved electricity customers up to \$1.2 billion in electricity bills.

RECORD RENEWABLES GROWTH WILL HALT UNDER NEG - Mark Butler

The Clean Energy Council's (CEC) Clean Energy Australia Report 2018 released today shows 2017 was a record year for large-scale renewable energy, with over \$10 billion worth of large-scale renewable energy projects reaching financial close. This investment alone will deliver 5,300 MW of new generating capacity and 5,750 new direct jobs.

This growth in investment wouldn't have been reached if it wasn't for the Renewable Energy Target – a Labor policy the Abbott government tried to abolish. But this record growth in renewables investment is all set to collapse under the weak emissions reduction target of Malcolm Turnbull's proposed National Energy Guarantee (NEG).

The CEC's Chief Executive, Kane Thornton has warned, *"there is still no long-term unifying energy or climate policy in place,"* and that low ambition of the NEG *"is unlikely to encourage the new renewable energy to continue to drive down power prices as our old coal power plants continue to close"*.

The energy industry itself has called for a more ambitious emissions reduction targets under the NEG with Smart Energy Council chief executive, John Grimes, saying: *"What it (NEG) effectively does is place a cap on renewables and it removes the investment initiative and support for additional large-scale renewable projects to come on line."*

But just yesterday we again saw the renewables industry being held hostage by the hard right of Malcolm Turnbull's party room, as the Liberal and National right wing demanded even weaker pollution reduction targets under the NEG.

The chaos and division of the Turnbull Government is what has caused Malcolm Turnbull's energy crisis and it is why a Liberal Government will not be able to deliver credible energy policy. Only Labor can be trusted to deliver energy policy which will secure affordable, reliable, and clean energy

HEALTH

INVESTIGATION INTO GREG HUNT'S "HIGHLY UNUSUAL" DRUG DEAL - King

Labor have asked the Australian National Audit Office to launch an investigation into what Health Department officials have described as a *"highly unusual"* Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme decision by Health Minister Hunt. In response to questions raised by Labor in Senate Estimates on Wednesday, officials confirmed Mr Hunt approved a *"special pricing arrangement"* for a medicine despite the advice of an independent expert panel. **Mr Hunt approved the pricing deal for afatinib (also known as Giotrif) earlier this year.**

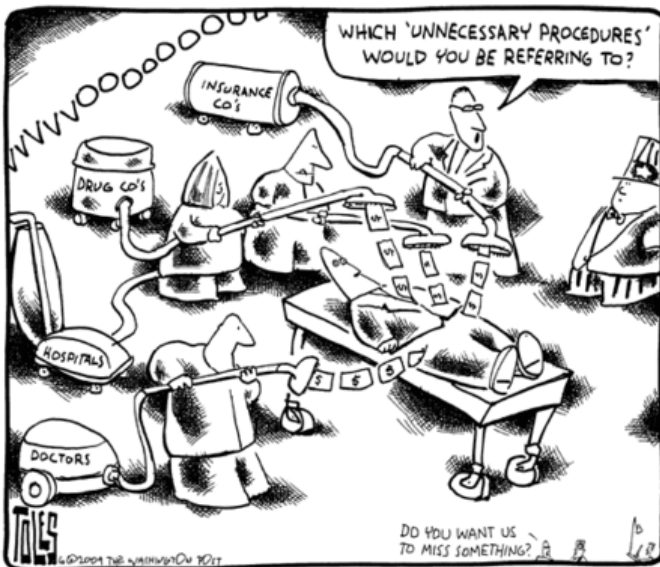
Labor fully supports the listing of this medicine – an effective lung cancer treatment – because it was recommended by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee way back in December 2013. The PBAC however withdrew its support for any special pricing arrangement, which allows drug companies to conceal the price of a medicine for commercial reasons.

Indeed since 2014, the Government has maintained that the medicine does not meet the Department of Health's eligibility criteria for an SPA.

So why did Mr Hunt change his mind and decide to set aside the advice of the PBAC – which officials testified was an unprecedented move - in order to deliver a special deal to this company? Is it because he wanted the manufacturer's support for a trial of new payment arrangements announced in the 2018 Budget? The SPA and the trial were both in the Government's deed of agreement with the company.

Health ministers should always follow the advice of the PBAC. Ministers who ignore or cherry-pick its recommendations risk chipping away at the trust in the drug listing system that has served us so well.

LABOR CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION INTO SURGEON "BOOKING FEE" RORTS- King



Labor wants an urgent investigation into allegations some surgeons are charging their patients out-of-pocket "booking fees" of up to \$6000. Medical booking and administration fees are predatory and unethical.

While we have every confidence that most Australian surgeons have only the best interests of their patients at heart, the ABC's Four Corners investigation into out-of-pocket costs shows there are some unscrupulous profiteers who need to be brought into line

We call on the Turnbull Government to order an immediate ACCC investigation to establish how widespread this practice is and come up with recommendations for stamping it out.

Malcolm Turnbull and Greg Hunt have done nothing to address out-of-pocket costs.

Instead of tackling the issue as part of their private health insurance package last year they shunted it off to a committee and that was the last we heard of it.

Labor is also concerned some surgeons are charging exorbitant rates for their services, leaving many people with unexpected and massive bills even if they belong to a private health fund.

We believe there needs to be better transparency of fees and more

accountability for surgeons who overcharge.

This behaviour can add significant stress to patients when they are at their most vulnerable. It also undermines public trust in Australia's world-class health system and cannot be allowed to persist.

We welcome the fact that the Australian Medical Association and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons are similarly concerned about these issues. We are committed to helping them address it.

Australians are already struggling with the rising cost of private health insurance, which is why Labor has committed to capping premium price rises at 2 per cent for two years.

People are also facing higher out-of-pocket costs when they see GPs or specialists thanks to the Liberals' ongoing Medicare rebate freeze.

Only Labor has a real plan to bring down health care costs.

GET 'EM DIRTY! John Elder – *The New Daily*

A landmark study has found that plonking your baby onto a blanket with older, runny-nosed children could prevent the onset of childhood leukaemia.

The study also poured water on the "persistent myths" that leukaemia is caused by ionising radiation, pollution, or electro-magnetic waves – theories that have added to a century-long controversy in the search for a leukaemia origin story.

Professor Mel Greaves, of the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) in London, said his research review clearly shows acute lymphoblastic leukaemia is more likely to occur to develop in wealthy countries, where it is on the rise – at the rate of about 1 per cent a year – and where there is a greater tendency to create germ-free home environments.

Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) is a form of cancer in which blood-producing cells in the bone marrow don't mature properly and grow too fast. It is the most common form of childhood leukaemia.

In launching the study, published in Nature Reviews Cancer, Professor Greaves was at pains to say parents should "in no way" be blamed for their children developing leukaemia.

But he urged them to facilitate contact between their babies and "as many other children as possible" in the first year of life. By doing so, their immune system becomes "primed" for fighting serious illness.

Professor Greaves' paper assessed 30 years of research, compiled from around the world, into the genetics, cell biology, immunology, epidemiology and animal modelling of childhood leukaemia.

He found that developing acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) is a two-stage process.

Like most cancers, the first step involves a genetic mutation that occurs before birth, in the foetus. While this predisposes children to ALL [acute lymphoblastic leukaemia], only 1 per cent of children born with this genetic change go on to develop the disease.

The second step is when the disease is triggered, later in childhood, by exposure to one or more common infections – such as a cold. But this occurs mainly in children who were kept in hygienic bubbles in the first year of life, with little exposure to other children.

"The research strongly suggests that ALL has a clear biological cause and is triggered by a variety of infections in predisposed children whose immune systems have not been properly primed," said Professor Greaves said in a prepared statement from the ICR.



DISABILITY

IT'S TIME FOR A ROYAL COMMISSION INTO ABUSE OF THE DISABLED - Shorten/Macklin/Brown

One year ago Labor called for a Royal Commission into the violence and abuse of people with disability. A year on, it's very disappointing that the Turnbull Government has continued to turn its back on people with disability, their families, carers and advocates by refusing to establish a Royal Commission.

When asked by Bill Shorten last year in Question Time, Malcolm Turnbull told the Parliament that:

"I will be raising this at the COAG meeting next week when I meet with state and territory chief ministers." Malcolm Turnbull, House of Reps, 29th May 2017

Mr Turnbull apparently handballed it to the Disability Reform Council (DRC). Then nothing happened. There's been no progress. It's simply not good enough.

- Labor will not allow countless sickening incidents of abuse against people with disability to be ignored.
- It's unacceptable that over 90 per cent of women with an intellectual disability have been victims of sexual assault.
- It's unacceptable that children with disability are at least three times more likely to experience abuse than other children.
- It's unacceptable that many cases that have described clear cases of abuse the perpetrators have never been charged and in some instances have been allowed to continue working with vulnerable people.

Labor again urges Mr Turnbull to act now and call a Royal Commission. People with disability, their families and carers and victims and their families have called for a Royal Commission. We've seen how important the Royal Commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse has been in uncovering thousands of cases of child sexual abuse and referring cases to the authorities for investigation, including the police. We've seen how important the Royal Commission into the Banking and Financial Services has been in revealing evidence of alleged bribery, forged documents and even financial planners charging fees to dead clients.

So why won't Mr Turnbull do the right thing and establish a Royal Commission into violence and abuse against people with disability?

Labor again calls on Malcolm Turnbull to begin the work to establish a Royal Commission immediately.

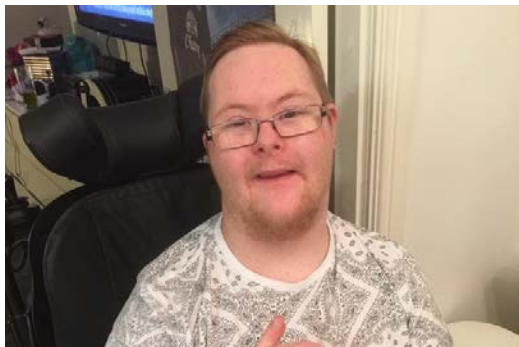
It's time for a Royal Commission; people with disability deserve nothing less.

LATEST NDIS REPORT SHOWS STAFFING CAP MUST BE LIFTED - Macklin

[The latest quarterly report](#) on the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) shows why the staffing cap on the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) must be lifted, immediately.

The report shows a big jump in the number of complaints about the NDIS. 4,146 complaints were made in the most recent quarter, with more than 17,300 complaints made since the scheme commenced.

Progress against the bilateral estimates also continues to worsen. Since the scheme started, 78 percent of the bilateral estimates have been met, down from 83 percent in June 2017.



The rate of unscheduled plan reviews also remains far too high (28%) – indicating people are not getting the right supports included in their plans.

The Turnbull Government must lift the staffing cap on the NDIA.

It's clear that the Agency doesn't have enough staff to rollout the scheme on time.

If we are going to sort out the problems with poor-quality NDIS plans the staffing cap on the NDIA needs to be lifted.

The Turnbull Government must also take action on workforce and market development. We know that one in five new jobs over the next few years will be in the disability sector.

Underutilisation of NDIS plans is a growing source of concern.

A high proportion of NDIS plans (55%) have a utilisation rate of between 0-50 per cent.

This means far too many people with disability that already inside the NDIS aren't getting the services and supports that their NDIS plan says they need.

Even worse, around 15 percent or 3,254 plans have not been activated at all in the most recently reported quarter alone.

We need a comprehensive workforce development and training plan so that the workforce is ready to provide the support services that people with disability need as the NDIS continues to rollout across Australia.

There are just too many examples of people not getting the services they need in their NDIS plans. Work on market development is urgent.

The good news is that 151,970 people with disability now have an approved plan at 31 March 2018, an increase of 19,228 from the previous quarter.

Encouragingly participant satisfaction remains above 80%.

The clear message from the latest NDIS quarterly report is that much work still needs to be done to ensure that the NDIS fulfils its promise.



SENIORS

AGED CARE HOAX EXPOSED - Collins

Senate Estimates has confirmed the hoax on older Australians in the Turnbull Government's Budget – there is not one new dollar of funding for aged care.

SENATOR MURRAY WATT: '... there was no new funding that wasn't already going to aged care that has been provided to pay for more home care packages? It's all come from existing resources that were spent otherwise?'

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIAL: 'Ahh yes.' - **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – 29 MAY 2018**

The Turnbull Government is cutting residential aged care and other ageing services to try and fix the home care crisis it created.

What's worse, the Government's hoax won't even come close to helping solve the crisis in home care.

There are 105,000 older Australians waiting for home care and the Turnbull Government has not delivered one new dollar of funding.

The 3,500 new places a year it has committed isn't even close to keeping pace with demand – the waiting list grew by 20,000 in the last six months of 2017 alone.

[Recent figures](#) revealed hundreds of older Australians have waited more than two years to receive a package. This is unacceptable.

Malcolm Turnbull and his Government should be honest with older Australians. The Turnbull Government needs to apologise for overpromising and under delivering for older Australians.

THE FARM

TURNBULL RUNNING SCARED - Fitzgibbon

The Turnbull Government has taken the extraordinary decision to pull their Export Legislation Amendment (Live-Stock) Bill 2018. The bill was listed first for debate in the Parliament this week.

I foreshadowed that Labor will move an amendment to the bill to incorporate a mirror copy of the Sussan Ley Private Members' Bill to phase out the live sheep export trade over five years. This amendment to the bill would have brought the vote on quicker and given it a better chance of passing the House with a simple majority, reflecting the true will of the Parliament - to phase out cruelty in the live sheep export trade.

The actions taken clearly show that Malcolm Turnbull is running scared that he does not have the confidence of his party to stop Labor's amendment.

After all the feigned anger over the Awassi Express incident, the Prime Minister is now putting his own political survival ahead of animal welfare standards.

LABOR TO ESTABLISH INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS - Fitzgibbon

I have given formal notice of my intention to introduce a Private Member's Bill that will establish an Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports. An independent statutory officer, the Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports will have oversight of the Commonwealth regulator in animal welfare matters.

As Agriculture Minister I appointed an interim Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports in September of 2013. Unfortunately, the new Coalition Government did not proceed with the legislation necessary to make the position permanent.

That was a regrettable decision which has proven contrary particularly to the interest of animal welfare in the live sheep export trade.

The Turnbull Government has been consistent in its opposition to the appointment of an Inspector-General. It's difficult to understand why.

Like the Inspector-General of Biosecurity, an Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports will deliver the robust regulatory oversight the community is demanding and the Productivity Commission has backed.

The Awassi Express incident and testimony at the recent Senate Estimates both confirm that we need an independent statutory officer auditing the work of the regulator.

LABOR WELCOMES STEPHEN SMITH TO RESOURCES 2030 TASKFORCE - Clare



Labor welcomes the Government's announcement of the appointment of Stephen Smith to the Resources 2030 Taskforce examining the future of the resource industry.

As a proud West Australian – Stephen Smith has a profound understanding of the importance of the resources sector to Australia's economic future.

Four of Australia's top five exports are resources. As a former Minister Foreign Affairs, former Minister for Defence and former Minister for Trade, Stephen

brings a depth of experience and knowledge about the global economic environment in which Australia's resources companies are operating. He will make an exceptional contribution to the Taskforce.

INNOVATION

WHO'S WHO IN CYBER SECURITY? - Brodtmann

In Senate Estimates this week the Minister for Defence showed she is just as confused as the rest of Australia about who manages what in the mess that is cyber security management under the Turnbull Government.

When asked why the Head of the Australian Cyber Security Centre, Alastair MacGibbon, wasn't in the room to answer questions on cyber security, the Minister said:

"I believe he's with Home Affairs."

When asked to clarify, the Minister said:

"I believe he attended Home Affairs Estimates."

When her claim was queried again, the Minister then said:

"This is a new arrangement... I'm very happy to discuss with my colleagues where it is most appropriate that Mr MacGibbon attend and we'll go from there."

While it would be assumed the Minister would know which agencies are in her department, she can be forgiven for being entangled in the spaghetti junction that is the Turnbull Government's cyber security architecture.

Because cyber security is managed by the:

- Department of Defence, and
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and
- Attorney-General's Department, and
- Department of Home Affairs, and
- Australian Communications and Media Authority

And poor Mr MacGibbon straddles [at least three of these agencies](#) – as Head of the Australian Cyber Security Centre, Deputy Secretary National Cyber Coordinator and the Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on Cyber Security. As a first step, the Minister should do a quick search of her own department's [website](#) that says the Australian Cyber Security Centre *"is the joint responsibility of the [Attorney-General](#) and [Minister for Defence](#)."* *We think.*

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TIMOR-LESTE ELECTIONS - Wong



Labor congratulates HE Xanana Gusmao and his Alliance for Change and Progress (AMP) following confirmation of their victory in Timor-Leste's parliamentary elections.

Timor-Leste's Court of Appeal has confirmed AMP, a coalition of Gusmao's National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction (CNRT) and two other parties, secured 34 of the 65 seats in this month's elections.

Australian and other international observers found that the elections, which saw a very high turnout, were peaceful and well-run.

The elections confirm the strength of Timor-Leste's young democracy, having only first held democratic elections in 2001.

They highlight the success of Australia's development assistance in Timor-Leste, which includes programs designed to strengthen governance and institutions, and promote free and fair elections.

Labor looks forward to engaging with the new government of Timor-Leste and further strengthening ties between our two countries.

TIMOR-LESTE ABANDONED BY TURNBULL - Wong

Not a single minister has visited Timor-Leste in the almost five years since the Coalition came to power, Senate Estimates has heard.

All Australians are rightly proud of the role we played in supporting the Timorese people to claim their place as one of the world's newest and proudest democracies.

But in an astonishing admission, DFAT officials tonight confirmed that not only had Prime Ministers Abbott and Turnbull failed to make a single visit to Timor-Leste during their time in office, neither had the Foreign Minister or indeed any other Minister or even Assistant Minister.

DFAT: "September 2013 was the last ministerial visit to Timor. It was by the then Minister for International Development, Melissa Parke."

In recent years the relationship between Australia and Timor-Leste has come under strain over our maritime boundary dispute, a dispute only ended when the Turnbull Government finally agreed to international mediation, as Labor had been arguing for.

In my visit to Timor-Leste in 2017 it was clear that the relationship would substantially benefit from the resolution of this dispute, and had any minister from either the Abbott or Turnbull Governments made the same visit any time in the past five years, this sore point in our relationship might have been overcome much sooner

Imams condemn Australia's "NO" vote at Israeli war crimes probe

In a press release on Tuesday 22 May, The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) has condemned the decision by Australia to side with the US in support of Israel and demanded a neutral and impartial stand on this issue.

"As Australians, we are shocked to hear that Australia was one of only two countries (alongside the US) to vote against a resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Council to investigate this horrific incident," the ANIC statement read.

Only U.S. and Australia voted in opposition, 29 countries in favour and 2 against, at the United Nations Human Rights Council on Friday 18 May in Geneva, to establish an investigation into Israel's killing of Palestinians during protests along the Gaza border, as war crimes.

More than 100 Palestinian protesters have been killed and almost 3000 injured by Israeli snipers at the Gaza border during the month long protests.

The bloodiest day of violence was on Monday 15 May since more than 55 protestors were killed and hundreds injured on a single day.

Meanwhile on Tuesday 22 May, the Canterbury-Bankstown Council in NSW has decided to donate \$1000 to Gaza as a token of support to the Palestinians suffering from Israeli blockade and violence.

The Mayor Karl Asfour and Councillor Bilal El Hayek made the announcement with the following comments by Bilal:

"We recognise that, in the global context, this is a tokenistic offer, but it is an offer that is symbolic of what we, as a Community, stand for caring for those who are vulnerable and those that are less fortunate than ourselves.

I hope that, in some small way, this draws attention to the issue and raises awareness of the ongoing conflict and human suffering in Gaza.

This is particularly important at a time when it appears there has been a disproportionate use of violence against people, people like us, exercising a human right that we enjoy freely in Australia: the right to freedom of assembly and peaceful protest. And I note that under the Liberal Federal Government, Australia was one of two countries – the other being the US – to vote against the UN Human Rights Council conducting an inquiry into this event."

For detail background story click : <http://www.amust.com.au/2018/05/australia-sides-with-us-voting-no-at-unhrc-israeli-war-crimes-probe/>

FUNNY MONEY WON'T BUILD PROJECTS - Anthony Albanese

When it comes to infrastructure, Budget 2018 was a triumph of spin over substance. In the lead-up to the Budget's delivery, the Turnbull Government pretended it was about to deliver "an infrastructure Budget," telling journalists it would fund projects like Western Sydney Rail and Melbourne Airport Rail. While the "leaks" attracted front-page newspaper coverage in Sydney and Melbourne, the actual Budget included no money for construction of either project. In fact, the Budget did not include a dollar of new infrastructure funding anywhere, simply allocating money already in the Budget to new projects.

But most of this spending won't happen for years. Only 1 per cent of this year's allocations will be spent in 2018-19. Three quarters won't be invested until beyond the Forward Estimates. This means that Australians will have to re-elect the Coalition not once, but twice, before the bulk of the money will appear.

Put simply, the Government has sought public praise by pretending it is committed to building new railways and roads, but has pushed their delivery off into the Never-Never. In the meantime, actual Federal infrastructure grants to States and Territories are falling off a cliff.

In 2017-18 the Government promised to distribute \$8 billion in infrastructure grants to the states. But the Budget documents show grants will fall year on year to \$4.5 billion by 2021-22. Across the four-year Forward Estimates, this year's Budget is more than \$2 billion less than last year's projections.

It's even worse than a year ago, when the independent Parliamentary Budget Office calculated that over the next decade, Federal infrastructure investment as a proportion of GDP will halve from 0.4 per cent to 0.2 per cent. Australia needs an increase in infrastructure investment now, not four to eight years from now. Investing in the right projects now will boost economic activity and create jobs in the short-term, while lifting productivity and economic growth in the medium to long term. As cover for its cuts, the Government is continuing to promote its attempts to attract more private investment to deliver public infrastructure as a viable alternative.

While private investment is welcome, the Government's endeavours in this area have yielded little. Its push began three years ago with the creation of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Financing Facility. It has failed to deliver a major new infrastructure project. Then there was last year's new idea – the Infrastructure Financing Unit, which was designed to use "innovative financing" mechanisms like value capture to secure private investment. After a year of operation, the IFU has not produced a project.

Undeterred, the Government used Budget 2018 to resort to complete fantasy by claiming it will provide \$5 billion in off-budget funding via an equity investment for the aforementioned Melbourne Airport Rail Link. Off-Budget funding can work for some projects. Indeed, the former Labor Government used an equity funding model to deliver the Moorebank Intermodal Terminal. But the golden rule for projects to be taken off-budget is that they must be able to provide a return to the Budget. That return must cover not only operating expenses, but also a commercial return on the capital investment.

There is no doubt that the right public transport projects can boost productivity and generate economic growth. However, they do not produce revenue streams sufficient to cover the cost of their operation, let alone the cost of construction. There's an old saying to the effect that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. The idea that infrastructure like the Melbourne Airport Link will somehow build itself without any taxpayer funding is too good to be true. This is sham funding. It is a funny-money political narrative, not a genuine plan to deliver productivity-enhancing, congestion-relieving infrastructure.

This is why independent experts have questioned the Government's approach. For example, the Grattan Institute's Marion Terrill has warned: "If infrastructure projects are never going to make a commercial return, the Government should stop pretending they will. And if they are worth building at all, the Government should fund them transparently on-budget." Adrian Dwyer, the head of peak industry group Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, has a similar view: "There are only two ways to pay for infrastructure – tickets and taxes. We can't finance our way out of a funding problem."

During its five years in office, the Coalition has cut infrastructure investment across the nation, particularly for public transport. In Budget 2018, it sought to shift its rhetoric to pretend it was ready to reverse its cuts. But once you get beyond the spin, nothing has changed.

This piece appeared in an edition of the Australian Financial Review this week: <https://bit.ly/2Jm204B>

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The Fairfax FEC are continuing their campaign to help Labor **win** the seat of Fairfax

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So take this opportunity to help the Labor cause and go into the draw to win

\$500 cash

Tickets: \$10.00 EACH (only 250 tickets available)

Drawn on the 21st July 2018 at the Dr Denis Murphy Memorial Dinner

<p>2018 Fairfax FEC Stimulus Raffle</p> <p>Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____</p> <p>Ticket No. _____</p>	<p>2018 Fairfax FEC Stimulus Raffle</p> <p>\$500 Cash Prize Only 250 tickets available</p> <p>Proceeds raised from this raffle go towards the Fairfax Federal Election Campaign to help Labor win the seat of Fairfax.</p> <p>Contact Details: Treasurer Coleen Giles 0407 767 182 PO Box 4990 SCMC, Q 4560</p> <p>Drawn: 21st July 2018</p>	<p>\$10.00 per ticket</p> <p>Ticket No. _____</p> 
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(Please consider purchasing a book of 5 tickets)

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The Australian Labor Party Fairfax Federal Electoral Council invites
all ALP members, friends and supporters to

Dr Denis Murphy Memorial Dinner

and is pleased to announce our keynote speaker

Hon. Kevin Rudd

Former Prime Minister of Australia
President, Asia Society Political Institute

Saturday 21st July 2018

at

Maroochy Waterfront Conference Centre

42 David Low Way, Diddillibah QLD 4559
(behind Waterfront Hotel)

www.maroochywaterfront.com.au/directions for map directions and information

**Welcome to Country & Canapés 6.30pm
Dinner 7.00pm**

\$65 per person for Canapé's, Mains & Dessert, tea & coffee (cash bar available)

RSVP by 12th July to Coleen at ripplemaker@bigpond.com.au or 0407 767 182

Please mention any dietary requirements when booking

Payment required at time of booking by direct
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Please use your last name and DDMMD as reference
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Table bookings of **eight (8)** will be accepted by
booking in the table name i.e. John Brown - and
by attaching the list of names with contact phone
numbers & emailing to Coleen.



Proceeds from this dinner will be used for campaign purposes

Moreton Trivia Night

with your host former
House Speaker Harry Jenkins

6.30 p.m. Sat 9 June

Junction Park State School Hall, Annerley

**Entry just \$25 waged
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**includes BBQ dinner,
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All proceeds to the ALP campaign for Moreton



MESSAGE FROM SALLY McMANUS ACTU Secretary

Wherever I go in Australia I hear the same story – people are ready for change and willing to take action to make it happen. And nothing demonstrates the need for change like massive rallies around the country. When people are prepared to stand up and take action, we can change the rules.

[We need you to join us](#)

So in April and May let's escalate the Change the Rules campaign and [hit the streets](#).

People around the country are ready to take action to change the rules and win more secure jobs and fair pay rises.

Big business has too much power, but when working people join together we are mighty and unbreakable.

[Join an action](#)

Anyone who wants to live in a better, fairer country, who wants more secure jobs and fairer pay rises, should attend [these events](#) and join the movement for change.

In unity,

Sally McManus - ACTU Secretary <http://www.australianunions.org.au/>

Authorised by S. McManus, ACTU Secretary. Australian Unions · L4 365 Queen St, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia

SIGN UP TO HELP CREATE GOOD, SOUND PUBLIC POLICY NOT ONE MORE LIFE IN VAIN



Petition to Australian Parliament CLEAR WARNINGS ON ALL DANGEROUS MEDICATIONS

OPEN 23/05/18

CLOSES: 20/06/2018

PLEASE SIGN AND SHARE!

(PLEASE GIVE THE PAGE A MOMENT TO LOAD.)

Petition Request

We Request: TGA should mandate all pharmaceutical companies to put clear warnings on the outside of the boxes of all dangerous medications.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Petitions/House_of_Representatives_Petitions/Petitions_General/Sign_an_e-petition?id=EN0607

BACKGROUND:

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) - Australia's medication regulator - issued a Medication safety update in Dec. 2016, as a reminder for all medical professionals to tell their patients and their carers about the dangers of antidepressants, BUT this is still not happening.

Here is the Medication safety update. <https://www.tga.gov.au/publication-issue/medicines-safety-update-volume-7-number-5-october-december-2016#a2>

There are many flaws in the warning system continuing to put lives at risk and a simple clear warning on the outside of a box of all dangerous medications, *would make it very clear to the patient and their carers, that they are taking a high risk life threatening medication.*

Current Senate Inquiries

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

- [National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Bill 2018 and National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse \(Consequential Amendments\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Encouraging Self-sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants\) Bill 2018](#)

Community Affairs References Committee

- [Science of mitochondrial donation and related matters](#)
- [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 practised](#)

Economics Legislation Committee

- [New Treasury Laws Amendment \(2018 Superannuation Measures No. 1\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [New Treasury Laws Amendment \(Tax Integrity and Other Measures No. 2\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(2018 Measures No. 4\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Personal Income Tax Plan\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Intellectual Property Laws Amendment \(Productivity Commission Response Part 1 and Other Measures\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [National Consumer Credit Protection Amendment \(Mandatory Comprehensive Credit Reporting\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)

Economics References Committee

- [Financial and tax practices of for-profit aged care providers](#)
- [The Commitment to the Senate issued by the Business Council of Australia](#)
- [Regional Inequality in Australia](#)
- [Selection process for a national radioactive waste management facility in South Australia](#)
- [Governance and operation of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility \(NAIF\)](#)
- [Consumer protection in the banking, insurance and financial sector](#)
- [Future of Australia's naval shipbuilding industry](#)
- [Non-conforming building products](#)

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

- [Education and Other Legislation Amendment \(VET Student Loan Debt Separation\) Bill 2018 and Student Loans \(Overseas Debtors Repayment Levy\) Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Education and Employment References Committee

- [The high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers](#)
- [The prevention, investigation and prosecution of industrial deaths in Australia](#)
- [Work health and safety of workers in the offshore petroleum industry](#)

Environment and Communications References Committee

- [Australian content on broadcast, radio and streaming services](#)
- [Water use by the extractive industry](#)
- [Waste and recycling industry in Australia](#)
- [Current and future impacts of climate change on housing, buildings and infrastructure](#)
- [Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities](#)

Finance and Public Administration References Committee

- [Digital delivery of government services](#)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

- [New Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment \(Veteran-centric Reforms No. 2\) Bill 2018 \[provisions\]](#)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

- [Proposed Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#)
- [Australia's trade and investment relationships with the countries of Africa](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

- [The Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment \(Removing Commonwealth Restrictions on Cannabis\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment \(Strengthening the Commitments for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Migration Amendment \(Clarification of Jurisdiction\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Judiciary Amendment \(Commonwealth Model Litigant Obligations\) Bill 2017](#)

Red Tape Committee

- [The effect of red tape on child care](#)
- [The effect of red tape on occupational licensing](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

- [Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Amendment Bill 2018](#)
- [Water Amendment Bill 2018](#)
- [Air Services Amendment Bill 2018](#)
- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

- [The need for regulation of mobility scooters, also known as motorised wheelchairs](#)
- [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](#)
- [Regulatory requirements that impact on the safe use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, Unmanned Aerial Systems and associated systems.](#)

Select Committee into the Obesity Epidemic in Australia

- [Obesity Epidemic in Australia](#)

Select Committee into the Political Influence of Donations

- [Select Committee into the Political Influence of Donations](#)

Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education

- [Stillbirth Research and Education](#)

Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers

- [Senate Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers](#)

