

Senator Claire Moore

WEEKLY UPDATE: 14th September, 2018

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Raising funds for the devastating Kerala floods with my Labor colleagues today and with the India Australia Association of Canberra on the weekend.

THIS WEEK:

At the National Press Club, the Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins gave a powerful address on the 2018 Sexual Harassment Survey. The survey revealed some startling - well it would have been startling for some but not for all of us - facts about the extent of sexual harassment in the workplace. We know this is not a generational issue and it's not getting better, it's getting worse.

According to Kate Jenkins; "The survey findings indicated that sexual harassment is endemic in Australian society, across all areas of daily life. When we look at the experience of Australians over the course of a lifetime: 85% of women and 57% of men have reported being sexually harassed on at least one occasion.

Sexual harassment in the workplace is a common experience which has increased since our last survey in 2012. One in three workers in Australia reported being sexually harassed at work over the last 5 years, compared with one in five from our 2012 survey and one in ten in 2003. Half of us have experienced it or witnessed it.

Unfortunately, to an increasing degree this is a young person's problem. What is clear is that this conduct begins the moment people enter the workplace, and that harassers prey on those less powerful than them."

As my colleagues have written in this Update; "Employers have a responsibility to provide a safe work environment for their employees. They have a responsibility to ensure staff and colleagues are able to seek support, and that inappropriate behaviour is properly addressed. Sexual harassment does not need to involve malice or ill-intent. No sexual harassment should be "part of the job", or dismissed as "just a joke" or a "compliment"."

As it is in the issue of female representation in our parliaments it is the Australian Labor Party that leads the way with clear policies in regard to these issues. Labor's National Strategy for Gender Equality identifies preventing sexual harassment as a key national priority. We - Labor - remain committed to placing a national focus on the prevention of sexual harassment in our workplaces, on our university campuses, residential colleges, and online.

If it's happened to you or if it is happening to you I urge you be an agent of change and speak up.

You can call the Australian Human Rights Commission Information Service on 1300 656 419.

The inquiry into sexual harassment in the workplace continues and I do encourage people to be engaged – take time to put in a submission and to make your voice heard.

The National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces here:

<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/submissions-national-inquiry-sexual-harassment-australian-workplaces>

*As Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Kate Jenkins said this week in her address; **Change does not take time, it takes action.***

Her full speech can be found here: www.humanrights.gov.au/news/speeches/national-press-club-everyones-business-2018-sexual-harassment-survey



SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore
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CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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WHAT'S BEING SAID ...



DUTTON - CHAMPION - CANBERRA

"What we have is Malcolm Turnbull from his apartment, overlooking Central Park, no doubt just free of Australian politics enough to suggest to his colleagues, to the Liberal party room and to the Government he once lead that Peter Dutton should be referred to the High Court."

DUTTON-- ONEILL – CANBERRA

"The government has absolutely no choice but to refer Peter Dutton to the High Court and confirm that he's even eligible to be sitting in this Parliament as an MP."

DUTTON- ALBANESE- CANBERRA

"It's not appropriate that the person who is responsible as Home Affairs Minister for administering a range of serious laws relating to national security is himself the subject of doubt when it comes to his legal status to sit as a Member of Parliament in the House of Representatives. Quite clearly what we have here is Scott Morrison running a protection racket for Peter Dutton."

DUTTON -KENEALLY – CANBERRA

"There is a cloud of illegitimacy and questions about the eligibility of Peter Dutton to sit in the Parliament, and that can only be resolved by the High Court. So it's time for Scott Morrison to show some leadership, to stand up, and to make clear that the rules that apply to Barnaby Joyce also apply to Peter Dutton."

"The email from the guy that Peter Dutton says he doesn't know, that he used to work with, that's starts 'Dear Peter, long time between calls' " - Tanya Plibersek

DUTTON - DREYFUS – ABC RADIO MORNINGS MELBOURNE

"The Solicitor-General's made it absolutely clear that there is doubt about this position that can only be cleared up by the High Court. The Solicitor-General said that he has been given very little facts with which to provide his opinion and let's also bear in mind that the failure to refer, the refusal to refer was only carried by one vote, Peter Dutton's vote."

DUTTON - BURKE – SKY NEWS AM AGENDA

"To say that they have got strong advice from the solicitor general, well they don't. They've got advice from the solicitor general and they had advice from the solicitor general on Barnaby Joyce and still went to check. Think of what the implications are if they get this wrong."

DUTTON -KENEALLY – CANBERRA

"There is a cloud of illegitimacy and questions about the eligibility of Peter Dutton to sit in the Parliament, and that can only be resolved by the High Court. So it's time for Scott Morrison to show some leadership, to stand up, and to make clear that the rules that apply to Barnaby Joyce also apply to Peter Dutton."

DUTTON - DREYFUS – ABC RADIO MORNINGS MELBOURNE

"We're going to consider our options but our preference is for Mr Morrison to show some integrity and some leadership and refer Mr Dutton to the High Court to clear this matter up. Seriously, why is Scott Morrison so afraid of Peter Dutton? I think, probably people do know the answer to that."

DUTTON -PLIBERSEK – ABC RADIO DRIVE MELBOURNE

"This is exactly the sort of thing where you've got two people, both absolutely certain, one that there has been an inappropriate intervention by the Minister, and the Minister saying absolutely he's certain that it's not inappropriate, well you could actually look at that through a National Integrity Commission."

COALITION FEMALE REPRESENTATION - ONEILL – CANBERRA

"This is a political party with a major problem with its female representation and it's something they urgently need to fix. The Labor Party has been tackling this problem for almost 25 years. We have gone during that time from having 14.5 percent representation of women to having almost 50 percent today. That has changed so much about how we operate as a party"

COALITION FEMALE REPRESENTATION- ALBANESE- CANBERRA

"What needs to happen in the Liberal Party is that those issues need to be addressed and they need to be addressed in a transparent manner. It's not up to Scott Morrison to have a cup of tea with someone and sort it out in private. It needs to be sorted out transparently."

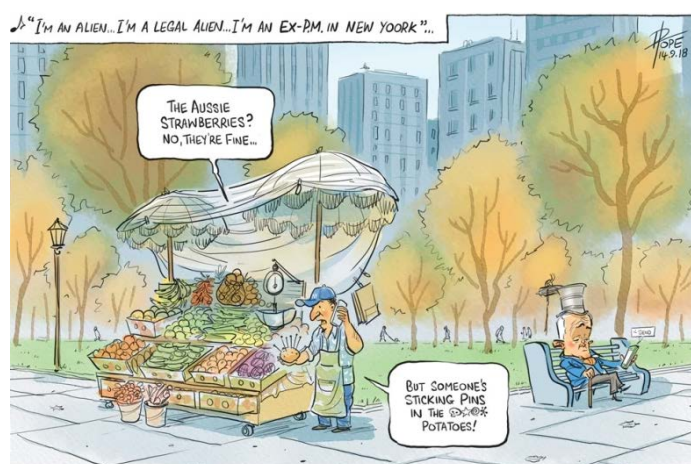
COALITION FEMALE REPRESENTATION - KENEALLY – CANBERRA

"What I can't understand is how the Liberal Party can be so out-of-touch with the community can be so out-of-touch that they think that it's completely acceptable in this day and age to have such a small number of women in the Parliament. They have gone backwards."

"It just says a lot about the culture of the Liberal Party that they think that women on the frontbench is tokenism." - Madeleine King

COALITION FEMALE REPRESENTATION - KENEALLY – CANBERRA

"I listen to the Liberal Party saying, "Oh, you know, we want to select our candidates on merit." Well, here's something they should consider – are they actually trying to argue that the only people of merit are men, because that's the logical conclusion if you look at the outcome of



their parliamentary delegation – that the Liberal Party actually believes that the only people who hold merit in the community and can represent people in Parliament are men. That’s the only logical conclusion you can draw.”

MORRISON -BURKE – SKY NEWS AM AGENDA

“Why on earth is he now in the job? Liberal supporters don't understand it. Labor supporters don't understand it and when the Australian people keep asking that question it would be wise of him to answer it at some point.”

“We've got a Prime Minister who doesn't seem to have a clue why he's got the job.” – Tony Burke

MORRISON - BURKE – SKY NEWS AM AGENDA

“We're being approached by Liberal supporters, dyed-in-the-wool Liberal voters who won't vote for us who are just looking at this gobsmacked saying why on earth did their party go through all of this to make itself less popular?”

“A Government that the Prime Minister describes as Muppets” - Nick Champion

THE GOVERNMENT - ALBANESE - SKY NEWS

“What that means is that anyone who doesn't have hard Right economic and social views isn't welcome in the modern Liberal Party. If that is the argument, they need to say that and that is one of the reasons why they can't answer the question.”

THE GOVERNMENT – ALBANESE- WESTERN SYDNEY

“The fact is that the Federal Government is too obsessed with its own internal fights and yelling at each other like cats in a bag rather than actually representing what people want. They've stopped governing, which is why we think they should call an election and put themselves, frankly, out of their misery.”

ROYAL COMMISSION INSURANCE - ONEILL – CANBERRA

“Words cannot describe how disgusted I was to hear audio of a young man with Down syndrome being bullied into buying a life insurance policy that he didn't understand and didn't need.



ROYAL COMMISSION INSURANCE - ONEILL – CANBERRA

“The horror stories that we heard this week would never have come out if Scott Morrison had had his way. He called the Royal Commission a “populist whinge” he said it would be a “QC's complaints desk”. And what I want Australians to think about is that we got to understand which political party in this country is going to actually take what's coming out of this Royal Commission seriously.”

NATIONAL INTEGRITY COMMISSION - DREYFUS SPEECH – MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

“In recent years there has been a loss of public faith in our Commonwealth institutions. Australia currently ranks 13th out of 176 countries on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. That doesn't sound so bad, but we were sixth on that list just six years ago.”

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

“Rather than directly address the disloyalty and division that was fundamental to the madness, new Prime Minister Scott Morrison has chosen to attempt to paper over it, to push on with his new dawn, hoping that electoral memories will fade or can be distracted by statements, slogans and spin about his personal values, beliefs and intentions. However, the electorate has had enough. They can easily see through what he is doing. They simply want authenticity and outcomes. – John Hewson

Morrison is off to a poor start by not being honest with the electorate as to just why Turnbull had to go and by defending the likes of Peter Dutton, whose actions in granting visas to two au pairs most see as indefensible. - John Hewson

In his “values” speech in Albury last week, an aspirational Morrison set out his wish-list but the speech, devoid of any policy detail, left one dominant and potentially defining question hanging in the air – how exactly does he plan to achieve any of it? - John Hewson

“Never has there been a newly minted prime minister with less credibility than Scott Morrison. Elevation to the prime ministership has exposed his hollowness; he is a figure who has stepped straight from an '80s lawnmower ad, bereft of policy on the economy, on energy, on wages, on climate change — but most of all, bereft of authority.” - Bernard Keane

“Mr Jones and his co-defendants relentlessly misled their listeners and the people who had trusted them to be honest and truthful,” - Denis Wagner [After winning a defamation case against media personality & Liberal backer – Alan Jones]

“Never has there been a newly minted prime minister with less credibility than Scott Morrison. Elevation to the prime ministership has exposed his hollowness; he is a figure who has stepped straight from an '80s lawnmower ad, bereft of policy on the economy, on energy, on wages, on climate change — but most of all, bereft of authority.” - Bernard Keane

DARREN CHESTER (National Party – Gippsland) “Look on the bright side, Raf. As a hobby I used to umpire football, prior to that I was a newspaper journalist, and now I'm a politician. So I'm a three-time loser.

PLIBERSEK: His next job's parking inspector.”

AU-PAIRED

Doctors have warned the Australian Border Force that a suicidal 12-year-old girl will die if she is not removed from Nauru. [The Guardian reports](#) that the unnamed refugee has made repeated suicide attempts, including by self-immolation, is suffering both PTSD and a major depressive disorder, and is currently eating **“almost nothing”**.

The news follows revelations from [BuzzFeed Australia](#) that government lawyers argued that a woman couldn't come to Australia from Nauru for an abortion because of the size of her vaginal opening, and [allegations](#) from Iranian journalist and Manus detainee **Behrouz Boochani** that a man was prevented from suicide on Tuesday.

Elsewhere, politicians around the country are today expected to advocate for mental health support for **“R U OK? Day”**. **Lifeline: 13 11 14.**

CHEATS, LIARS & THIEVES – Adele Ferguson (Fairfax Media)



“Regrettable, unacceptable, inappropriate.” They were words wheeled out at various times by **CommInsure boss Helen Troup** in response to some disturbing behaviour going on inside the division. Troup's words sugar coat what is tantamount to serious misconduct in the life insurance arm's dealings with the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS). Dealings described by senior counsel assisting Rowena Orr, QC as not being frank and open, and which included hiding and redacting a medical opinion to mislead FOS and failing to provide FOS with relevant information. At the end of the day, the behaviour and motives of Commonwealth Bank's life insurance division boiled down to money. It was profit before its policyholders.

The royal commission heard how executives knew the universal definition of heart attacks had changed years earlier but CommInsure chose not to update its policies. Instead, it opted to deny legitimate claims.

It makes a mockery of Troup's comments to the royal commission that the joint investigation between Fairfax Media and Four Corners regarding CommInsure in 2016 was found to have put forward unsubstantiated allegations

What is most shocking about the behaviour at CommInsure is that shortly after the joint media investigation, and a day after CBA had agreed to backdate the definition of heart attacks by two years to May 2014 and apologised to customers for poor behaviour, it was at it again. A policyholder who suffered a severe heart attack in January 2014, and had his claim denied,

“Do you accept that in making decisions not to update the definition [of heart attacks] between 2011 and 2016 CMLA was motivated by commercial considerations and that it did not adequately take into account the interests of its customers in making those decisions?” Orr put to Troup, who whispered a faint **“yes”**.



BULLIES



Liberal Party elder Judith Troeth has suggested female MPs in the Coalition have backed away from bullying allegations because of threats to their careers. Ms Troeth, a parliamentary secretary under John Howard, made the claim as Prime Minister Scott Morrison declared in question time that he was **“absolutely satisfied that there was no gender specific lobbying or pressure placed on members”** during last month's leadership spill.

Assistant Home Affairs Minister Linda Reynolds yesterday stood by her criticism in the Senate chamber during the spill of colleagues she accused of “bullying and intimidation”, but declared she would not be discussing the matter publicly. **“I strongly believe that the correct forum to address these concerns is via robust and constructive discussion within the Liberal parliamentary party processes, not in the media and not in this chamber,”** Senator Reynolds said. On Tuesday, South

Australian Liberal senator Lucy Gichuhi appeared to back down from a threat to **“name and shame”** colleagues she accused of bullying, saying she had spoken to Mr Morrison, who had **“taken up the issue”**.

Ms Troeth, a Victorian senator from 1993 to 2011, said she believed Liberal colleagues who had told her the bullying allegations, which have not been publicly aired, were credible. **“I've been assured from colleagues that I know quite well and whose words I would believe that it all is verifiable, that it is all true, and probably that the women have backed down because of the threat to their future career,”** Ms Troeth said. **“I just think it's reprehensible that that's been used against them in that way. It would deter women or men from going into parliament to face that behaviour.”**



MORE [Paula Matthewson – The New Daily](#)

Right-wing commentator Andrew Bolt had already claimed Julia Banks “hurt the Liberals by creating a fake scandal about alleged **‘bullying in the party’**”.

Meanwhile others from the reactionary commentariat, particularly those with links to the Dutton numbers men whose names were associated with the bullying allegations, have also questioned the veracity of the women’s claims and challenged them to ‘put up or shut up’.

It should be said there is an alternative view to the value of using the name and shame approach. Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins explained on Wednesday that when bullying is a cultural problem within an organisation, naming the bullies can distract us from looking at the problem as a broader issue.

Even so, this writer is among those who believe that only the public excoriation of the bullies will force the Liberal Party to change its hyper-masculine culture. By securing the agreement of female Liberal MPs to keep the matter behind closed doors, the PM has made it far too easy for the cultural problem to be denied or dropped in the too-hard basket, particularly once the election gets under way.

It would be fair to think that’s highly likely given that accusations of bad behaviour against women stretch across both the Coalition parties, and how badly the Nationals handled the sexual harassment complaint made against Barnaby Joyce.

After responding to a call to ‘put up or shut up’, Catherine Marriott lodged her claim against the then Nationals leader and was subjected to what the Sex Discrimination Commissioner described on Wednesday as a “brutal and unsatisfying complaints process”.

The Nationals closed its eight-month internal investigation and advised Ms Marriott last week it could not reach a conclusion due to lack of evidence.

A FAILURE OF LEADERSHIP

The qualitative focus group polling, conducted for the Labor Party by Utting Research, finds typical responses to Scott Morrison taking over from Malcolm Turnbull as prime minister include **“joke”, “embarrassing”, “why?”, “shambles”, “muppets” and “clowns”**. Despite Mr Morrison being the compromise candidate after Peter Dutton initiated the challenge against Mr Turnbull; one significant response among those surveyed was **“backstabber”**.

DERELICT SUNSHINE - [Kat Donaghey \(The New Daily\)](#)

From one end of the Great Barrier Reef to the other, about half of the sunshine state’s once-popular tropical escapes are closed due to cyclone damage or financial struggles.

Others have not had a facelift since their heyday in the 1980s and 1990s as many domestic holidaymakers opt for luxury packages in Asia.

Queensland has 29 island resorts in the reef region, of which 14 are currently closed – including Brampton, Hayman, Daydream, Lindeman, Hinchinbrook, Double Island, Dunk Island, Great Keppel Island main resort, Hook, Happy Bay on Long Island, South Molle, Wilson and Pelorus.

Once synonymous with barefoot bars, white sand and sparkling pools, these resorts have not welcomed visitors for years.

In the Whitsundays alone, about half the island resorts are shut, although three are promising grand re-openings in the next 12 months, offering visitors a more premium experience.



The Queensland government is trying to revive the suffering island industry, opening a \$25 million infrastructure fund to encourage owners to “grow, green and clean” resorts.

The government has also promised \$25 million to reconnect power and water to the now-demolished Great Keppel Island resort off the coast of Rockhampton.

The resort is seeking investors through cryptocurrency for a \$300 million development.

Associate Professor of tourism Dr Pierre Benckendorff, from the University of Queensland Business School, said some resorts could face permanent closure. “Some of the islands need a white knight to save them and sink a lot of money into them otherwise they will continue to decay,” said Dr Benckendorff, citing

Chinese companies as the most likely saviours.

“Some of the resorts are just falling apart and each time they get hit by another cyclone, they fall apart some more. It’s inevitable they will have to shut permanently.” Dr Benckendorff said the popularity of affordable five-star getaways to south-east Asian islands had frightened off investors concerned about returns in Queensland.

JOBS FOR THE BOYS

“Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton pressed then Customs chief Roman Quaedvlieg to help two Queensland policemen get jobs in the new Border Force agency Mr Dutton was setting up – a revelation set to escalate the political furore surrounding Mr Dutton’s decisions as immigration minister. One of the two policemen, Matt Stock, is a good friend of Mr Dutton’s, according to sources with knowledge of the events. The second man, John Lewis, is the son of corrupt former police commissioner Terry Lewis.”

“The Minister for Home Affairs has not denied the substance of these allegations, merely stating that he does not believe he has done anything improper. These are serious allegations which cannot go unanswered.” – Mark Dreyfus

SILENCE THE WHISTLE

The first hearings for the trial of Witness K and Bernard Collaery for revealing ASIS’ illegal conduct in bugging the Timor-Leste cabinet, began this week though none of the charged turned up. It was another round in the procedural battle as the Commonwealth government seeks to have the matter held in secret.

Witness K blew the whistle on an illegal bugging operation undertaken by Australian intelligence officers against the Timor-Leste government in 2004. The two nations were in negotiations about how revenue from lucrative oil and gas reserves would be divided.



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Witness K took his complaint to the inspector-general of intelligence security, and with approval engaged Mr Collaery as his representative. Mr Collaery was charged in relation to his discussions with journalists after ASIO raided his office in 2013

The government has sought at every stage to cover up the crimes committed under the Howard government, and if it has its way, the cover-up will continue — for, it says, national security reasons, but mainly to ensure that the public doesn't get to hear of matters such as why ASIS was ordered by Alexander Downer to redeploy resources from the fight against terrorism to an operation designed to benefit an Australian company, why K was wrongfully dismissed over the matter, or why the prosecution documents signally fail to mention News Corp journalists despite *The Australian* being the media outlet that first revealed ASIS' crime. Prosecutors, and K's and Collaery's lawyers are still negotiating over the government's desire to hide proceedings.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT – Plibersek/Burney/Brown/Pratt

The Australian Human Rights Commission Report into Sexual Harassment in Australia shows that cultural and societal change is needed in every sector, at every level, to end sexual harassment.

The report made some very sobering findings which illustrate the prevalence and pervasiveness of sexual harassment. It really is an epidemic. Almost two in five women and one in four men said they have been sexually harassed at work in the past five years.

Seventy-two per cent of Australians have been sexually harassed at some point in their lifetimes – 85 per cent of women and 57 per cent of Australian men over the age of 15. LGBTIQ people, First Nations people and people with disability were also more likely to be sexually harassed. This report shows a need for a fundamental shift in cultural attitudes and behaviour, in particular towards women and members of the LGBTIQ community.

Low reporting rates show that many workers do not feel comfortable seeking support in their workplaces.

Employers have a responsibility to provide a safe work environment for their employees. They have a responsibility to ensure staff and colleagues are able to seek support, and that inappropriate behaviour is properly addressed.

Sexual harassment does not need to involve malice or ill-intent. No sexual harassment should be *"part of the job"*, or dismissed as *"just a joke"* or *"compliment"*.

Every sector – from retail and hospitality, to corporate boardrooms, media, and government – everyone should be free of harassment in their workplace. Labor's National Strategy for Gender Equality identifies preventing sexual harassment as a key national priority.

Labor remains committed to placing a national focus on the prevention of sexual harassment in our workplaces, on our university campuses, residential colleges, and online.

We will work to ensure that victims of sexual harassment are supported through our court system. And we are committed to ensuring that individuals who are disproportionately vulnerable to sexual harassment – including migrant women, First Nations women, women with disabilities and members of the LGBTIQ community – have access to support.

If you are experiencing sexual harassment in the workplace you can call the Australian Human Rights Commission Information Service on 1300 656 419.

We encourage people to make a submission to the National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces here:

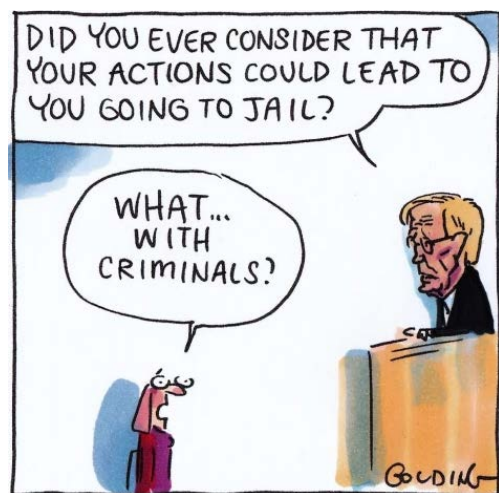
<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/submissions-national-inquiry-sexual-harassment-australian-workplaces>

ECONOMY

THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND CRIMINAL BREACHES –MORRISON APOLOGY? - Clare O'Neil

On Monday the Royal Commission heard explosive evidence that Clearview breached anti-hawking provisions more than 300,000 times with its direct phone selling of life insurance products. This carries a criminal penalty – a fact confirmed by Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission Rowena Orr QC.

Some of the people targeted by this conduct included vulnerable, low-income Australians. It is an enormous, appalling breach – and yet another example of sickening misconduct in the financial services sector.



Most shockingly, this misconduct could've been stopped so much earlier. These potentially criminal breaches were occurring up until mid-2017 – while the Liberals were blocking the Royal Commission.

The Liberal Government did everything to avoid shining a light on misconduct in the financial sector. They ran a protection racket for the big banks over 600 days and Prime Minister Scott Morrison voted against setting up a Royal Commission 26 times. Then they spent the past year trying to give the big banks a \$17 billion tax cut.

All the while, Australian families suffered at the hands of dodgy financial service providers. Given what we've heard so far, the Liberals' opposition to the Royal Commission was unconscionable.

Scott Morrison must apologise to every single person affected by Clearview's conduct, and to the hundreds of thousands of Australians who have been ripped off by the big banks and other financial services providers.

HEALTH

SCOTT MORRISON'S HEALTH FUND PROTECTION RACKET - King

The Liberals are doing everything in their power to protect the profits of the big health funds but nothing to help ordinary Australians struggling with relentless premium price rises and ballooning out-of-pocket costs.

Newspaper reports today offer yet more evidence that the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison health insurance "reforms" put their big business mates first and patients last.

According to leaked modelling, the insurers will feel zero pain from the changes - but they will be allowed to slash the benefits they pay to members for joint replacements, cataract surgery, insulin pumps and pain therapy.

The Liberals claim no one will be worse off under their changes. So why are they refusing to publicly release and explain this modelling?

They need to come clean on the real effect their policies will have on ordinary Australians struggling with the cost of healthcare.

The Liberals designed these changes hand-in-hand with the insurers, giving them everything they wanted.

What they don't seem to realise is that pushing up costs or reducing benefits will only force more people to dump their cover - hastening the decline of the entire industry.

Under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government, premiums have increased by 27 per cent since 2014 – costing families an average \$1,000 more. This has already forced thousands of people to drop or downgrade their policies.

Only Labor has a real plan to rein in private health insurance costs - by standing up to the insurers.

By capping premiums price rises at 2 per cent for two years, Australians will save an average of \$340.

By contrast, the Government's changes this year delivered a 4 per cent price rise - double inflation - while the insurers reported massive profits.

Is Scott Morrison really so arrogant and out-of-touch that he thinks annual double inflation price rises are acceptable?

R U OK? DAY 2018 – Shorten/Julie Collins/Deb O'Neill

Thursday was RUOK? Day. It's an important day that encourages people to take the time to start a meaningful conversation with someone they are worried about. Starting a conversation with someone – a family member, a friend or a colleague – who is struggling can make a difference and it's something each one of us can do. And that conversation can start with four simple steps:

1. **Ask RUOK?**
2. **Listen**
3. **Encourage action**
4. **Check in**

Australia has a strong track record when it comes to mental health and suicide prevention awareness. Slowly but surely, we are starting to reduce the stigma around mental health and suicide. As a community we are talking more about our mental health - and this is a good thing. But sadly, for all of the hard work and dedication, suicide continues to affect far too many Australians.

2,866 Australians died from suicide in 2016. There is an average of around 8 deaths by suicide in Australia each day. Sadly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are still approximately twice as likely to die by suicide than non- Indigenous Australians.

In 2016, suicide was the leading cause of death among all people 15 – 44 years of age and the third leading cause of death among those 45 – 54 years of age. **These statistics are heart-breaking and confronting. One death by suicide is too many.**

Labor knows there is more work to be done to improve the mental health of Australians and to further reduce the thousands of lives lost to suicide each year. There is also the impact on families, friends and colleagues – behind every loss is a community dealing with grief.

Labor's thoughts are with those that have lost a loved one to suicide today and every day. It is only by working together that we will be able to finally reduce the impact of suicide in our society.

Labor continues to be a strong supporter of **RUOK? Day**. Raising community awareness around suicide prevention must continue and one way we can all make a difference on RUOK? Day is to start a meaningful conversation with someone you might be worried about. We also take this opportunity to thank the dedicated individuals and organisations like RUOK? who are committed to working towards reducing Australia's suicide rate.

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

MORRISON'S PLAN TO RIP MORE MONEY FROM PUBLIC HOSPITALS - King

Two weeks in the top job and Scott Morrison is already planning to rip hundreds of millions of dollars more out of Australia's public hospitals. Not content with cutting billions of dollars from public hospital budgets between now and 2025, the Liberals now want to retrospectively claw back funding for services already provided.

The Victoria Government estimates these new retrospective accounting changes could see more than \$200 million slashed from that state's hospitals alone.

States have delivered these services in good faith, consistent with rules agreed three years ago. To shift the goal posts now is unfair and unacceptable.

If Morrison thinks there are issues with the calculation of public hospital funding, he should work with the states and territories to fix them.

Instead, once again Scott Morrison is taking any opportunity he can to rip millions of dollars more out of Australia's public hospitals. By contrast, Labor has promised to fully reverse the Liberals' cuts to public hospitals through our \$2.8 billion Better Hospitals Fund.

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Our hospitals are already in crisis, with ballooning emergency department and elective surgery waiting lists – and these cuts will only make things worse. Doctors, nurses and patients will suffer.

Scott Morrison also interfered with the hospital funding model as Treasurer. He might be trying to remake his image as Prime Minister – but he's up to the same old dirty tricks.

But ultimately it doesn't matter if it's Tony Abbott or Malcolm Turnbull or Scott Morrison or Peter Dutton in charge this week – health and hospital cuts are in the Liberal DNA.

EDUCATORS FIGHT FOR PAY AS MINISTERS FIGHT FOR THEIR JOBS – Rishworth

There are 130 early childhood educators in Brisbane who are at risk without pay because of problems with the Liberal Government's unfair new child care system.

Reports have once again highlighted the ongoing issues with the Government's new system which has left hard working educators at risk without their pay. It is simply unacceptable these educators are at risk of not being paid. The Minister would not accept going without pay, so why should they?

The government knew the system wasn't ready to launch – and yet they still launched it.

Labor has been contacted by many families and providers who have been stuffed around by the Liberal Government's new system and have had to pay out of pocket because of the stuff ups.

This is just another example of a Government's chaos and dysfunction.

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has been focused on themselves and have dropped the ball on ensuring these hard working Australians are getting paid.

The new Minister must intervene urgently to fix this debacle.



MESSAGE FROM AMANDA RISHWORTH – FAMILY DAY CARE

The current Government has launched a series of compliance programs and crack downs on the Family Day Care sector to stamp out fraudulent and illegal activity.

Labor has supported these integrity measures. Labor has received a number of representations from family day care providers who have been targeted by the compliance measures. These high quality providers and educators have been issued with breach notices by the Department of Education and Training and given notice their access to the child care subsidy will be withdrawn, resulting in considerable stress and anxiety to these educators and families. The providers note many of the identified breaches are easily explainable, with documented evidence, or the result of administrative error or confusion. Some have been breached for error rates below 0.1 per cent.

Last Friday Labor addressed the Family Day Care Australia conference and outlined that a future Labor Government would adopt a reformed, more targeted and more collaborative approach to compliance, as opposed to a blunt instrument approach that risks legitimate service providers being unfairly caught up in the current compliance regime. We would, of course, maintain the tough cop on the beat policy for dodgy providers. I also remind members and senators that my office has developed campaign materials for the national preschool and kind program funding and attacking the government's unfair new child care system

SENIORS

AGED CARE ACTION TOO LITTLE TOO LATE AFTER YEARS OF LIBERAL CUTS – Julie Collins

Scott Morrison is the architect of huge cuts to residential aged care that have smashed the quality of care being delivered across the country - after years of inaction older Australians won't trust him and the Liberals to fix the growing crisis in aged care now.

In just his first year as Treasurer Scott Morrison cut almost \$2 billion from the care of older Australians. One of his first acts as Treasurer was to slash almost \$500 million from aged care funding in the 2015 MYEFO. He followed this with an even bigger cut of \$1.2 billion from aged care funding in the 2016 Budget.

Under Scott Morrison's watch the aged care budget has been used as an ATM to try and prop up the Budget. The Liberals plan now - to shuffle some money around and give back just \$16 million - would be laughable if the situation wasn't so serious. The Government has sat on the report that recommended this legislation for almost a year - this has taken far too long.

It is critical to the future of the aged care sector that families can have faith their loved ones will be safe and receive a high level of care in residential facilities.

Wednesday's announcement will not solve the growing aged care crisis in Australia. The release of the [latest data](#) on the home care package waitlist revealed close to 108,000 older Australians are waiting for care.

The list includes more than 88,000 older Australians waiting with high needs, many with dementia. The Liberals have no plan and no ideas to fix this waiting list. Across the country there are growing concerns about the quality of care being delivered in residential aged care facilities but all the Liberals have done is cut.

The aged care workforce is expected to increase by 300 per cent in the next 30 years, but the Liberals are yet to respond to its own report into how to prepare for this growth.

These issues require genuine attention and more funding - not more re-announcements.

Labor recognises that everyday around the country the majority of older Australians are treated with care and respect at residential aged care facilities.

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LIBERALS MUST RESPOND TO AGED CARE WORKFORCE STRATEGY – Julie Collins

More than two months after the Minister for Aged Care received the Aged Care Workforce Taskforce's *A Matter of Care* strategy the Liberal Government is yet to publically release or respond to the strategy.

Despite saying aged care [would be a focus](#) of his new government, Scott Morrison's deafening silence on this strategy shows his commitment to his policy area will be little better than his Liberals predecessors.

The Liberals are too busy fighting amongst themselves instead of focusing on what matters.

The lack of response fits a disturbing pattern of cover ups and inaction on aged care from successive Liberal governments.

Just last month the Minister for Aged Care, Ken Wyatt, finally released the latest data on the number of older Australians waiting for home care which he deliberately delayed for three months.

When the data was finally released it was immediately clear why it was delayed: it revealed more than 108,000 older Australians were languishing waiting for the care they needed.

Labor has previously called on the Liberals to support and respond to the Workforce Taskforce's strategy without delay.

It is deeply disappointing that this strategy is collecting dust like the dozens of reviews and reports on aged care that have been ignored by the Liberals.

Equally concerning is that the Government has yet to commit any funding to this strategy.

The aged care workforce is expected to increase by 300 per cent in the next 30 years, underscoring the challenges and opportunities of getting this right.

Disappointingly, the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Governments have shown a complete lack of commitment to Australia's aged care workforce, cutting billions from the aged care system.

It's been five years of little action on workforce development – with the exception of the scrapping of Labor's \$1.5 billion Workforce Compact.

Under Scott Morrison's watch as Treasurer the aged care budget has been used as an ATM to try and prop up the Budget - in just his first year as Treasurer he tried to rip almost \$2 billion from the care of older Australians.

It's time the Liberals started doing better on this critical area of policy.

MESSAGE FROM JULIE COLLINS

REBEKAH SHARKIE'S PRIVATE MEMBER'S STAFFING RATIO DISCLOSURE BILL & THE ANMF PLEDGE

Labor is supportive of measures that go towards improving transparency for older Australians, their families and carers seeking aged care services.

With the aged care reforms introduced by Labor in 2012 designed to deliver better access to residential care, it is important that a broad range of information is made available so that older Australians can make informed decisions about the services they wish to access.

Labor not only supports greater transparency around staffing in residential aged care facilities (RACF) it also believes that broader information could be provided including:

- ***The number of complaints a RACF receives;***
- ***Any accreditation failures;***
- ***Type of accreditation failures; and***
- ***Measures that service providers have put in place to deal with accreditation issues.***

This would ensure that consumers can have informed choice when making decisions about where and whom they have supporting their loved ones.

Regarding staffing arrangements in residential aged care facilities the role of nurses and personal care workers in the care of our older Australians is critical and will only become increasingly important.

Labor also understands the important role of other health professionals such as GPs, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and dieticians have on the overall wellbeing of older Australians.

The number of people aged 85 years is rapidly increasing compared with younger age groups and is predicted to double by 2032.

We will need to see a tripling of the aged care workforce in the next 30 years to provide a high standard of living and care for this growing proportion of older Australians.

Labor has called on the Government to immediately implement the workforce strategy that it has had since June 2018 and thanks the Chair of this report, John Pollaers, for his important work. We also believe that the Government must work with unions and aged care providers to implement this strategy to meet growing demand.

This strategy must consider issues such as the proposal for 24-hour registered nurse coverage at residential aged care facilities.

Labor also successfully pushed for the reconstitution of the Senate Inquiry into the future of Australia's aged care workforce. The Senate Community Affairs References Committee report tabled in the Parliament in June this year was adopted unanimously by all political parties and made a series of recommendations in relation to workforce development.

The Senate report also provided valuable analysis of the issues confronting the aged care workforce.

Whether it is aged care providers, workers or consumers the message has been consistent. This Government must take action to ensure we have an adequately skilled and equipped aged care workforce to care for our rapidly ageing population.

SOCIAL SERVICES

CASHLESS DEBIT CARD - GOVERNMENT HIDES COST? – Burney/McAllister/Chisholm

Despite trying to keep the cost of the Bundaberg-Hervey Bay Cashless Debit Card secret, the Government let the cat out of the bag today – it will cost taxpayers more than \$13 million.

After revealing the expected individual cost and number of participants, the Government realised the game was up.

Labor Senator Jenny McAllister: *“Minister, a rough calculation – there are 6,700 participants, and it costs \$2,000 per person, then the cost is \$13.4 million – can you confirm that the cost of the trial in Bundaberg and Hervey Bay is around \$13.5 million?”*

Liberal Minister Mitch Fifield: *“Thanks Chair. Thanks Senator. I can’t add to what I’ve already said.”*

The questions locals will be asking today is: how could \$13.5 million have been better spent in the community?

What local investment in health services, drug rehabilitation, education and jobs could have been made instead?

There is no clear evidence to support the roll-out of the cashless debit card to more locations. The Auditor-General recently released a damning assessment of the Government’s evaluation of existing Cashless Debit Card trials – concluding that it wasn’t possible to say whether social harm has been reduced.

Despite this lack of evidence, the Member for Hinkler, Keith Pitt, and the LNP have rammed these changes through the Parliament.

Labor has consistently opposed a national roll-out of the Cashless Debit Card, and opposed the Card in Bundaberg-Hervey Bay because of a lack of evidence and a lack of community support.

Labor supports evidence-based, community driven approaches to tackling alcohol abuse and family violence, and reducing social harm.

CENTRELINK JOB CUTS HIT REGIONAL AUSTRALIA – Husic/Jones/Bird

Regional Australia looks set to bear a heavy price in the latest Centrelink job cuts. 30 jobs are to be targeted for cuts from the Illawarra at this stage, as the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government’s continues to drive jobs out of Centrelink.

The only winners of the cuts push appears to be contracted labour hire firms, who look set to gain more work. The news of these cuts demonstrates that the Coalition’s commitment to regional jobs isn’t worth the paper it’s written on. This shows that the new Minister for Decentralisation has failed in her first step.

Instead of delivering jobs to regional Australia, we are seeing less. You can’t lecture the private sector on creating regional jobs if you are cutting your own. And make no mistake: these latest cuts will be felt painfully by the community in the Illawarra.

They will be felt by workers directly affected by the Coalition’s decision, along with members of the public who will brace themselves for an impact on Centrelink services. The cuts target debt recovery sections of Centrelink - the last line of defence against a robo-debt scheme that’s been found to push out error-ridden debt notices.

These Centrelink workers will not be able to intervene in the future to correct wrongly issued notices. Many of those departing workers will take with them extensive experience in this area, likely to be replaced by privately engaged - and less experienced - labour hire staff. It’s also concerning that the union covering these workers had to chase Centrelink to find out about the scale of these cuts and the number of staff affected.

Labor understands the importance of both supporting regional jobs and delivering stronger service to Australians via Centrelink.

Labor has already announced its plan for an additional 1,200 Department of Human Services jobs which will help improve Centrelink services in regional areas under a Shorten Labor Government. This stands in stark contrast to the Coalition - whose only approach seems to be fewer jobs, poorer service in Centrelink.

ENVIRONMENT

WARREN ENTSCHE DECEIVES THE PEOPLE OF FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND – Burke/ Moore

Labor’s commitment to the protection of the Reef is long standing. We value it as the natural wonder it is and for the jobs it supports in Queensland.

Warren Entsch has been caught out lying to the people of far north Queensland about the Great Barrier Reef.

Mr Entsch knows full well that Labor has always been critical of the Abbott Turnbull Morrison Government’s decision to give half a billion dollars to a small private foundation instead of directing funding to the Reef through government agencies.

The actions of the Government are almost impossible to defend and directly disadvantage the people of the far north by chasing a Brisbane based organization to receive the full half a billion dollars.

A Shorten Labor Government would change policy so that the money had to be returned to the Government and directed back to the reef in full via government agencies.

Last Friday on Facebook Warren Entsch has posted an ad claiming that if money is returned to Government it would not be redirected straight back to the Great Barrier Reef. This is a lie. Warren Entsch knows it’s a lie and yet he is telling the people of the far north anyway. He doesn’t care about them and he certainly doesn’t care about the far north.

The fact is communities around the nation, including those here in Tropical North Queensland, rely on tourism for their local economy. The Great Barrier Reef supports 64,000 jobs.

Warren Entsch and this Abbott Turnbull Morrison Government are determined to leave Far North Queensland behind.

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AUSTRALIA MUST ALWAYS FIGHT COMMERCIAL WHALING – Burke/Dreyfus



The Abbott/Turnbull/Morrison Government have failed to act on fighting commercial whaling by sending a junior Minister to the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

Australia's authority on this issue has always been shown by sending a senior Minister to the IWC. This is the only way Australia has ensured that a strong front is presented on this incredibly important issue of commercial whaling.

In August of this year, Labor sought assurances from the Government that they would send a senior Minister to the IWC to oppose moves by Japan to lift the global moratorium on commercial whaling.

The moratorium on commercial whaling is a critical piece of environmental reform. It needs to be upheld rather than undermined.

This meeting is critically important, thanks to Japan's proposal to end a decades-old ban on

commercial whaling.

Australia's 2014 victory at the International Court of Justice, led by Labor, ensured that Japan's "*scientific*" whaling program was exposed for what it was – a commercial operation. It now falls to the Abbott Turnbull Morrison Government to ensure Japan does not successfully overturn the ban on commercial whaling, and undermine that ruling even further.

The Minister for Environment not personally attending the International Whaling Commission in Brazil shows Australia is failing in our responsibility to protect whales and potentially allowing commercial whaling to be reintroduced without strong opposition. Only a Shorten Labor Government will take a strong stance against commercial whaling.

THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTER NEEDS TO ACT ON ADANI – Burke

Labor is alarmed at news that the Adani Carmichael project has allegedly breached environmental approval conditions by sinking six dewatering bores, clearing vegetation and undertaking roadworks, having already spent a year trying to hide water pollution emanating from its operations.

The action by the Queensland Government to investigate the potential breach is the responsible thing to do.

When Former Environment Minister Greg Hunt approved the mine he said that "*The rigorous conditions will protect threatened species and provide long-term benefits for the environment through the development of an offset package. These measures must be approved by myself before mining can start.*" Some of these conditions were for plans to be written and reviewed before certain actions were taken.

Environmental conditions are critical to maintaining the integrity of an approval. If they have been ignored it is a serious matter.

Adani commencing projects prior to approvals would be a contradiction of condition 7 of the EPBC Act approvals.

Labor is calling on the Environment Minister to step in, show some strong leadership on this issue and launch an immediate investigation.

We have already seen the Federal Government refuse to investigate the dumping of coal laden water into the Caley Valley wetlands. This is an important test for the new Environment Minister to see if Minister Price will adopt the same culture of neglect that was commenced under Minister Frydenberg.

This Abbott Turnbull Morrison Government need to carefully consider the actions they take now and how it will impact the environment in the future. With so much of eastern Australia drought declared, the Government must reassure Australians that this project won't have unacceptable negative impacts on our precious water resources.

As with all projects, Adani must be held to account every step of the way. Only a Shorten Labor Government will take proper care of our environment.



WORKERS

UNDEREMPLOYMENT AND LOW WAGES GROWTH SERIOUS CONCERNS – O'Connor

Labor welcomes the steady unemployment rate in today's Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour force figures, but remains concerned that stubbornly high underemployment and stagnant wages growth are hurting Australian families.

While the unemployment rate remained at 5.3 per cent, we note that there are still 708,800 unemployed Australians, with nearly 13,000 more people lining the unemployment queue than when the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government was elected.

The number of underemployed and underutilised Australians – that is people wanting more work but not being able to find it – remains stubbornly high at more than a million.

When coupled with the number of unemployed, it means there are 1.8 million Australians who are under-utilised in the labour force.

Of particular concern is the youth unemployment rate which is more than double the national average and jumped to 11.7 per cent.

Under Scott Morrison and his Liberals, Australians are suffering with insecure work, stagnant wages and skyrocketing cost of living pressures. Everything is going up in Australia except for wages.

Mr Morrison and his Liberals are too pre-occupied with fighting themselves instead of focusing on the needs of Australians.

This is a Muppet Show that support cuts to wages through slashing penalty rates, and advocate for a \$17 billion tax handout to the banks.

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AIG REPORT CONFIRMS LIBERALS ARE FUELLING SKILLS CRISIS – Cameron

A new Australian Industry Group report on chronic skills shortages confirms the Liberals are presiding over a skills crisis which is adversely impacting on Australian businesses and the economy. The [2018 Workforce Development Needs Survey Report](#) shows 75 per cent of employers are reporting skill shortages, up from 49 per cent in 2016.

Technicians and tradespeople are the occupations where the shortages are greatest. Alarming, the report also singles out digital technologies, a key area of economic growth, as being in a particularly parlous state.

The AIG chief executive, Innes Willox, says ***“it is clear we need new approaches to education, training and re-skilling to maximise the benefits of the digital economy.”***

Mr Wilcox said the skills shortages come at a time when digital technologies are increasingly disrupting traditional workplaces and when businesses need skilled workforces to capitalise on new and emerging markets.

Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Apprenticeships, Senator Doug Cameron, said the report is a damning assessment of the Government’s record on skills.

“When industry says your policies are seriously impacting its capacity to grow and capitalise on new markets, you should listen,” Senator Cameron said.

Senator Cameron said the \$3 billion the Coalition has cut from vocational education since being elected has plunged the VET system into crisis.

“There are 140,000 fewer apprentices since the Coalition came to office, TAFE enrolments have plummeted by 24.5 per cent and thousands of students have debts for courses they have not done,” Senator Cameron said.

“This is should be a wake-up call for the Government and for the new Skills and Vocational Education Minister, Senator Michaelia Cash.

“If they won’t listen to Labor, they should listen to the AIG and fix this crisis.”

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

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

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE: MORE NEEDED ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE - O’Connor/Burney

The Liberals’ deficient workplace response to domestic and family violence leave introduced into the Parliament today is too little too late.

Legislating five days unpaid domestic and family violence leave is not nearly good enough. The combined stress of seeking legal advice, accessing counselling services and medical treatment should not be compounded by fear of losing your job or the financial disadvantage of going without pay.

Labor calls on Scott Morrison and his Liberals to adopt Labor’s commitment to 10 days’ paid domestic and family violence leave in the National Employment Standards. Nothing less will do.

Labor has listened to victims, frontline workers, business, unions and organisations that deal daily with domestic violence. Their clear message is that people who have experienced domestic violence need more support in the workplace.

State governments and many private sector employers already provide paid family violence leave, including Carlton & United Breweries, Telstra, NAB, Virgin Australia, IKEA and Qantas. These employers, and many others, have paved the way and helped reduce the stigma that often accompanies domestic violence. So too have Australia’s unions, campaigning for paid domestic and family violence leave over many years which has led to subsequent coverage in Australian workplaces.

The complexity of family violence requires a strategic approach by all levels of government, business, and the community.

If you cover this story, or any story regarding violence against women and children, please include the following tagline:

****** 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 ******

LIBERALS SELL OUT WORKERS FOR TEMPORARY WORK VISAS – Neumann/O’Connor

New [reports](#) show that the Liberal Government is issuing temporary work visas – 457-style visas – for occupations they had previously slashed from the skilled occupation lists. This is further proof the out-of-touch Liberals botched their changes to temporary skilled migration and that they can’t be trusted with Australian jobs.

It’s scandalous that the Liberals refuse to address the growing number of people from overseas being given temporary work visas, at the same time as it’s slashing TAFE funding. This is putting too many Australian workers at the back of the jobs queue.

In April 2017, the then-Turnbull Government rushed to announce their crackdown on 457 visas without consulting affected stakeholders – with the changes and subsequent revisions to the skilled occupation lists sending waves of uncertainty through the business, innovation, and education sectors.

There were even [reports](#) of Peter Dutton’s own departmental officials describing their Minister’s skilled migration changes as a ***“dog’s breakfast.”*** Is this one of the reasons why Peter Dutton has had oversight of Australia’s skilled migration stripped from his ministerial responsibilities by Scott Morrison?

A Shorten Labor Government will establish the Australian Skills Authority – an independent, labour market testing body, which will determine genuine skills needs and restrict temporary work visas to only those areas. The Australian Skills Authority will work in consultation with industry, unions, higher education and TAFE sectors, and State and Local Governments to project Australia’s future skills shortages and train Australian workers for those jobs.

Labor believes that no skills shortage should last one day longer than it takes to train an Australian to fill that role.



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If Labor's plans for better TAFEs and stronger visa standards had been in place these past four years – there would be 120,000 fewer workers here on 457 visas.

Only Labor will make sure employers have to look for local workers first and we'll make sure local workers have the skills to do the job.

A FAIR GO FOR AUSTRALIANS IN TRADE DEALS – Clare

Labor will permanently fix the way we do trade deals to put Australian workers first and stop future governments from signing up to trade deals that include clauses that allow foreign companies to sue the Australian government.

The Liberals have eroded Australians' trust in trade by signing trade agreements that:

- **Allow companies to bring in foreign workers without first checking if there's an Australian who can do the job by waiving labour market testing requirements, and**
- **Include clauses that allow foreign companies to sue the Australian Government (known as ISDS provisions).**

This is the sort of thing that makes Australians very angry. It's not protectionism to say that before a company brings in an electrician or a carpenter or a mechanic from overseas it should first have to check if there is an Australian who can do the job. It's just common sense.

A Shorten Labor Government will introduce laws that prohibit governments from signing trade agreements that waive labour market testing or include ISDS provisions.

Trade agreements should not include ISDS clauses or waive labour market testing, nor should they require the privatisation of public services including its health, education or welfare sectors or undermine the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Australia is a trading nation. Our economic growth is underpinned by our ability to sell our goods and services overseas. If we want more people to support free trade and open markets, we have also got to be more open and honest.

At the moment trade deals are negotiated in secret with not enough input from Parliament, industry, unions and civil society groups or the community.

Labor will change that.

A Shorten Labor Government will build on measures we have already announced to boost the transparency and analysis of trade agreements by:

- **strengthening the role of the Parliament by briefing the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties at the end of each round of negotiations and providing it with the Government's Statement of Objectives for Negotiation for consideration and feedback**
- **legislating to establish a system of 'Accredited Trade Advisors' from industry, unions and civil society groups who would provide real time feedback on draft trade agreement text during negotiations**
- **providing public updates on each round of negotiations and releasing draft texts during negotiations where this is feasible**
- **legislating to require an Independent National Interest Assessment to be conducted on every new trade agreement before it is signed to examine the economic, strategic and social impact of any new trade agreement.**

LIBERALS MUST ACT TO STOP SYSTEMIC WORKER EXPLOITATION – O'Connor

In yet another blow to this Government's failure to protect vulnerable workers and stamp out systemic worker exploitation, the Fair Work Ombudsman today released a report exposing the appalling record of some Domino's franchisees and head office-managed stores regarding the treatment of its workers.

A FWO investigation found *'breaches covering underpayments of overtime and minimum shift engagements, as well as non-payment for hours worked, delivery allowance, annual leave loading and personal leave entitlements'*.

Staggeringly, when the FWO reviewed a month of wage payments from 6 February to 5 March 2017 at each of the 33 stores they investigated, they found disclosed underpayments for 20 workers totalling \$1978.77 – which is an average of \$99 per worker for that month alone.

The investigations took place following not one, but two compliance partnerships between the FWO and Domino's over multiple years, beginning in 2011.

You have to ask – if this is what is happening in franchise chains, including those run from head offices, what else is happening in workplaces across the country under the Liberals' watch?

Scott Morrison and his Liberals should put workers first for once instead of focusing all their energy on attacking workers and their representatives - unions.

Time and time again, the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has been exposed for its failure to address exploitation and insecure work.

The FWO has also warned Domino's head office that it will be commencing further compliance activity within the next 12 months. Even the FWO isn't confident the behaviour will stop.

This exploitation has to stop.

We call on the new Minister for Industrial Relations to take a stand and put forward real reforms to toughen up the FWO, and toughen penalties for employers who have been found to be thumbing their noses at the law at the expense of workers' wages.

CASH NEEDS TO FIX VET CRISIS WHEN SHE RETURNS FROM HANOI – Cameron

Michaelia Cash must turn her attention to Australia's vocational education and training crisis when she returns from the ASEAN economic forum in Hanoi.

Australia's VET system is in crisis due to \$3 billion of Coalition cuts, as well as a further \$270 million cut to apprenticeships in the last Budget.

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

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

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

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



Meanwhile, Senator Cash is telling ASEAN leaders that ***“we (Australians) have a leading reputation in the region across many sectors including skills and vocational education...”***

Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Apprenticeships, Doug Cameron, said the OECD ranks Australia at the bottom of international leader charts when it comes to our capacity to engage in global value chains.

Senator Cameron said the main barrier to that critical economic activity is our skills base. He said Senator Cash is following in the footsteps of her ineffective predecessor Karen Andrews who would wax lyrical about Australia's international performance in spite of the facts.

Ms Andrews gushed at a recent forum ***“...I think Australia's system is just as good and I believe it is actually better than the German system.”***

However, the OECD has stated that Australia doesn't have the skills needed to engage effectively in global value chains, while Germany's superior performance has led to increased employment and improved social outcomes.

As reported in IMD World Talent Rankings, Australia has slipped to 51 on its global scale for implementation of apprenticeships, down from 22 in 2016.

The Government's own regulator, ASQA, has reported parts of the Australian training market are in ***“a race to the bottom”*** and the Productivity Commission has called the Australian VET system ***‘a mess’***.

“I am deeply concerned that Australia's VET system is sliding further into disarray and it is beyond the capabilities of this discredited Minister to fix it,” Senator Cameron said.

“Only a Shorten Labor government will restore TAFE, apprenticeships and other VET courses to a standard that improves the productive performance of Australian industry and allows us to create more jobs by engaging in global value chains.”

COMMUNICATIONS

THE FIFIELD WEATHERVANE STRIKES AGAIN! – Rowland

Mitch Fifield appears to be suffering post-spill memory loss – embracing the NBNCo back down on service levels as a ***“win for consumers”*** despite the Government lodging a submission with the ACCC in March 2018 opposing that very step. To [quote the submission from the Minister's department](#):

“the ACCC is encouraged to monitor the market and to clearly identify the sources of outstanding problems rather than imposing wholesale standards”

And then in response to Labor announcing its NBN Service Guarantee in June the Minister offered the [following pearl of wisdom](#):

“Labor are completely in the dark, floating thought bubbles that disregard the independent regulator's inquiry”

Yet now the Minister finds himself embracing the apparently very dark thought bubbles he tried to shoot down. As the Banking Royal Commission has shown, such forgetfulness by Liberal Ministers is part of a well-established playbook of opposing consumer welfare initiatives that Labor proposes, only to switch position after the battle is lost.

Labor will continue to formulate its consumer policy priorities from Opposition and we are glad to see NBNCo now taking steps to implement some of these measures.

LABOR WELCOMES NBNCO BACKDOWN ON WHOLESALE SERVICE LEVELS – Rowland

Labor welcomes [the announcement](#) that the ACCC has accepted a court-enforceable undertaking from NBN Co to improve wholesale service levels.

This step will improve outcomes on fault rectification timeframes, installations and missed appointments.

The development serves as a stinging rebuff to Mitch Fifield [and his opposition to improving service standards](#), and vindicates the policy direction established by [Labor's NBN Service Guarantee](#).

For the past twelve months Labor and the ACCC have [led the discussion](#) on wholesale service levels, with broad support from industry and consumer groups.

The ACCC should be congratulated for progressing this issue, given the reversal by NBNCo only occurred after the ACCC presented the company with an interim determination.

This outcome is a sensible first step towards delivering better outcomes for consumers.

Labor will build on this positive development and remains committed to establishing an NBN Service Guarantee that also [strengthens protections for small business](#), and safeguards against excessive downtime.

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INNOVATION

EQUITY CROWDFUNDING A REALITY. FINALLY! – Husic

It only took five years, but equity crowdfunding looks set to finally become a reality.

On Wednesday the Parliament finally passed the Coalition government's reforms to its equity crowdfunding laws, which is good news.

This is good news for start-ups and small businesses looking for new ways to raise capital to build stronger firms and create new jobs.

Labor has long recognised the value of equity crowdfunding. In 2013 we commissioned work to reform the Corporations Act to make it a reality.

We signalled for years our preparedness to work with the Coalition to fast track the introduction of equity crowdfunding.

We argued against the Government's March 2017 laws, pointing out it would only be a matter of time before they had to be reformed - which was exactly what occurred.

Labor has urged the government to get its new equity crowdfunding laws passed since it first introduced this bill 12 months ago - in September 2017.

The only reason equity crowdfunding reforms didn't kick off sooner is because the Coalition couldn't be bothered to have these laws debated and passed quickly.

After stalling for a year, we're pleased a new Treasurer took a constructive approach to the bill, agreeing with an Opposition amendment to help ensure the new laws take effect sooner than initially proposed.

This is the way the Parliament should work - especially when it comes to supporting laws to help smaller firms find new ways to finance future growth.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CHINA'S XINJIANG UIGHUR AUTONOMOUS REGION – Wong

Labor is deeply concerned by continuing reports of the mass detention of China's minority Uighur population and other violations of human rights, including those outlined by members of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Geneva earlier this month.

Labor is particularly concerned about reports of Australian residents feeling intimidated and unable to contact their family members.

Labor welcomes the Foreign Minister's confirmation the Australian Government has raised concerns with Beijing about the situation in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

It is important that the Uighur community in Australia do not feel pressured or intimidated by events in China and we welcome the Minister's assurance Australian officials have raised the issue of Uighur Australians with their counterparts in Beijing.

As well as continuing to press our concerns through bilateral mechanisms, Labor calls on the Government to use Australia's membership on the UN Human Rights Council, in coordination with other members, to continue to pursue this issue with the Chinese Government.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

BIPARTISANSHIP THE KEY TO SUCCESS ON ROAD SAFETY – Albanese/Sterle

Federal Labor undertakes to work with the Coalition Government in a spirit of bipartisanship to address the findings of the inquiry into the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020, which was delivered on Wednesday.

This important report, produced by a panel of experts, argues that Australia's road safety performance has stalled in recent years.

It calls for a greater focus on road safety to save lives and reduce the economic cost of road trauma.



360,000 injured at a cost of \$300 billion by 2030 alone."

The report says:

The scale of the personal and financial cost of road trauma is unacceptable, and current actions and investments are not achieving the desired results.

Australia needs a dramatic change in road safety management, given the national road injury epidemic and the enormous economic cost from road crashes.

Failing to improve our current situation will result in 12,000 people killed and

Labor will review the report's key findings and work with the Federal Government, the States, law enforcement, motoring organisations and other relevant stakeholders on the important task of improving Australia's road safety performance.

Over the past ten years, there have been 14,525 road fatalities in Australia, including 1226 road deaths in 2017 and 665 so far in 2018.

With the report placing the annual economic cost of road crashes in Australia at \$30 billion, and the effect that fatalities have on families and communities who have lost loved ones through vehicle accidents, we must lift our game.

HOME AFFAIRS

DUTTON DISHES OUT DOLLARS TO MOTIVATE HIS DEPARTMENT – Neumann/Keogh

In astonishing revelations, the [Daily Telegraph](#) revealed Peter Dutton's Department of Home Affairs has spent more than \$63,000 this year on motivational speakers. It seems rather than boosting morale by improving pay and conditions in Dutton's mega Department, they thought it would be more worthwhile to spend their money on the likes of ex-Australian Idol Casey Donovan and celebrity scientist Dr Karl to pep up disenchanted staff.

It's been well documented that morale in the Department previously known as Immigration and Border Protection has been consistently low – with employees [having little confidence](#) in the Department's senior management.

The division and instability in Scott Morrison's Muppet Show has been led by the Minister for Home Affairs and it seems the same discontent is trickling down to Dutton's Department.

These latest revelations come during a week where Peter Dutton has lashed out in Parliament following ongoing revelations about giving au pairs to rich donors and government jobs to his mates.

Maybe it might be more productive for Scott Morrison to appoint a new Minister for Home Affairs rather than the Department spending thousands of taxpayer dollars on motivational speakers.

THE LAW

GOVERNMENT MUST GUARANTEE CROSS-EXAMINATION FUNDING – Dreyfus/Burney

Time is running out for the government to confirm additional funding for Legal Aid to accompany cross-examination reforms that are due to be put to the House of Representatives for a vote later this morning.

The Family Law Amendment (Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties) Bill will ban direct cross-examination of domestic violence victims by their perpetrators, and has Labor's support.

But there remains one glaring omission in the debate on this bill – the government has not pledged any additional funding for Legal Aid to enable them to provide legal representation, which is necessary for the cross-examination ban to work.

That is despite a bipartisan Senate committee report which called for the government to detail a funding commitment for Legal Aid before this bill reaches the Senate.

Labor has moved a second reading amendment to the bill which reiterates that call, and is seeking support from the crossbench.

The clock is ticking – the government must confirm just how much funding, and when, it will deliver to Legal Aid in order to make this important reform work. Anything less is not good enough.

Debate on this bill was shamefully delayed by two weeks, thanks to the government's decision to shut down Parliament in the midst of its leadership chaos. Now Morrison needs to do the right thing and properly fund these reforms.

If Attorney-General Christian Porter does not make this pledge, this bill is nothing but an expression of good intentions without the resources that are necessary to make it work.

DUTTON MUST EXPLAIN LACK OF AFP REPRESENTATION IN HIS OFFICE – Clare O'Neil

Peter Dutton must immediately explain why there is no longer Australian Federal Police liaison point in his office.

According to [reports](#), this is the first time since the mid-1990s that the AFP has not had an officer placed with the relevant minister in Parliament House.

This is extremely concerning – the AFP plays a crucial role keeping our community safe, yet they don't even have a representative in their minister's office. These liaison roles are critical to ensuring the minister is across important issues in the agency.

The AFP is a highly specialised agency that runs complex and sensitive operations and criminal investigations. Peter Dutton's claims that his portfolio is too big to have a liaison officer from the AFP in his office are not credible. No other agency liaison officer in his office could represent and advise on the full suite of specialist AFP functions.

Peter Dutton must explain whether he personally requested the removal of the AFP liaison officer from his office, or whether the AFP removed the officer due to some sort of breakdown in the agency's relationship with the Minister. If the Home Affairs super-portfolio responsibilities are too much for Peter Dutton, then the Prime Minister must give them to someone who is better placed to handle them.

The disappearance of this role comes on top of the Liberals' record of savage cuts to the AFP and shows how our frontline law enforcement agency simply isn't a priority for Peter Dutton.

In the last Budget, the Liberals cut \$205 million from the AFP over the forward estimates – a cut Peter Dutton presided over as Minister for Home Affairs. As a result, the AFP Commissioner recently confirmed that staffing at the AFP is predicted to fall from 6448 personnel in 2018-19 to 5881 personnel in 2021-22 – an extraordinary reduction of 567 AFP personnel.

The AFP is under enormous pressure. According to the AFP Commissioner, referrals of drug matters have risen by nearly 300 percent in three years and that victim-based crime matters have risen 200 percent. At the same time, Liberal cuts are forecast to hit the AFP's existing capacity to tackle fraud, organised crime and anti-narcotics.

Instead of supporting our dedicated AFP officers to perform their critically important work, the Liberals have chosen to cut AFP funding, slash staff and now won't even have an AFP representative in Parliament House.

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GOVERNANCE

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DECISION TO REDACT AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT - Hill

[Auditor-General has no Minister and is accountable only to the Parliament. An important role of the Joint Standing Committee of Public Accounts and Audit is to speak up for the independence of the Auditor-General.]

After Question Time on Tuesday, the Auditor-General's report *Army's protected mobility vehicle—Light*, Auditor-General's report No. 6 of 2018-19 was quietly tabled.

The report examines the \$2.2 billion 'Hawkei' program, a locally made replacement to the Bushmaster, which the government decided in 2014 to procure without a competitive process. Large slabs of the report were blacked out following the Attorney-General's use of extraordinary powers in section 37(2)(a) and (e) of the *Auditor-General Act 1997*.

In effect the Auditor-General was gagged by the Attorney-General issuing a certificate requiring the redacting of certain material. The Attorney-General has never before utilised these two powers since they were provided in 1979, in amendments made to the (predecessor) *Audit Act 1901*, and only once before (in 1987) has a certificate even been issued.

While there may be valid reasons for the Attorney-General's actions, in a Parliamentary democracy any action by the Executive to restrict the Auditor-General's independence or freedom to report is an extremely serious matter warranting careful Parliamentary scrutiny.

Despite this, the Government refused to allow the report to be debated.

It remains unclear what is so extraordinary that the Attorney-General used these powers.

No statement has been made and no account given, as the Attorney-General merely referenced "one or more" provisions claiming publication of the material would:

s 37 (2)(a): "...prejudice the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth;

s 37 (2)(e): "...unfairly prejudice the commercial interests of anybody or person."

The Auditor-General frequently criticises the government and raises value-for-money concerns with defence projects, yet gets his message across to the Parliament without disclosing classified information or impacting on national security.

Media reports raise concerns that the Attorney-General may have gagged the Auditor-General in order to settle a commercial dispute.

A Federal Court case brought by Thales Australia against the Attorney-General was mysteriously withdrawn by consent on 9 July after the Attorney-General issued a certificate requiring the deletion of material which it is understood Thales objected to.

This matter must not be allowed to set a precedent, or suggest that any company could routinely take legal action to reduce Parliamentary accountability where commercial interests are upset.

This matter should be of interest to all members of the House as the Auditor-General scrutinises the executive on behalf of the Parliament.

Independence of the Auditor-General is absolutely central to any claim of credibility of Parliamentary control over the executive in the Westminster system.

The Attorney-General should explain his actions to the Parliament and consider a confidential briefing to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit to assuage concerns. **My full Statement to the House of Representatives on Thursday 13 September is available at: https://www.julianhillmp.com/statement_13092018.html**

THE FARM

END TO LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS BILL PASSES THE SENATE - Fitzgibbon

The Animal Export Legislation amendment (Ending Long-haul Live Sheep Exports) Bill 2018 passed the Senate this week with the support of Labor.



The Bill will end the long-haul export of live sheep during the scorching northern hemisphere summer months and phase out the balance of the trade over a five year period.

The Morrison Government must now allow a debate and a vote on the Senate Bill in the House of Representatives.

The amendments to the Bill are in response to horrific vision aired on 60 Minutes in April of sheep suffering and dying on voyages to the Middle East.

It's clear the Australian community does not believe the trade can meet reasonable animal welfare expectations.

The Senate Bill mirrors the Private Member's Bill sponsored in the House by MPs Sussan Ley and Sarah Henderson. The two recently promoted Liberal MPs must stick to their word and stand by their commitment to support the phase out of the trade.

Labor has listened to the overwhelming community concerns and the scientific experts and we will continue the fight to put an end to live sheep exports.

VETERANS

71 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING – Marles/Rishworth

This week we honour and remember our peacekeepers and peacemakers for the 71 years of continued service of peacekeeping.

Australia has a long and proud history when it comes to our peacekeeping efforts around the world.

Whether it be providing talks between communities, greater stability, humanitarian aid or medical assistance to those men, women and children on the ground Australia's peacekeeping efforts have provided greater peace to those regions which were previously embattled with conflict.

Australia's role in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations began in 1947 and has seen more than 70,000 Australians involved in peacekeeping, including ADF personnel, Australian Police and civilians.

Australian peacekeepers have been involved in operations in Cyprus, Cambodia, Haiti, Mozambique, Rwanda, Bougainville, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and many more.

The stability and safety which our peacekeepers have brought to regions of conflict is immeasurable.

We remember all of those men and women, who in working towards a more peaceful world have sacrificed their own lives. We remember those who have been wounded and the 16 Australian lives lost whilst on peacekeeping operations.



There's still time to register for this year's Walk in Her Shoes challenge.

Girls in developing countries walk an average of 6km every day to collect clean water for their families. Put yourself in their shoes by [signing up to walk 6km a day from 22–28 October](#) and raise funds to help provide water closer to home.



For more information about the challenge and how you can get your workplace involved, download the [Walk in Her Shoes corporate brochure](#).



1 Sign Up



2 Fundraise



3 Walk

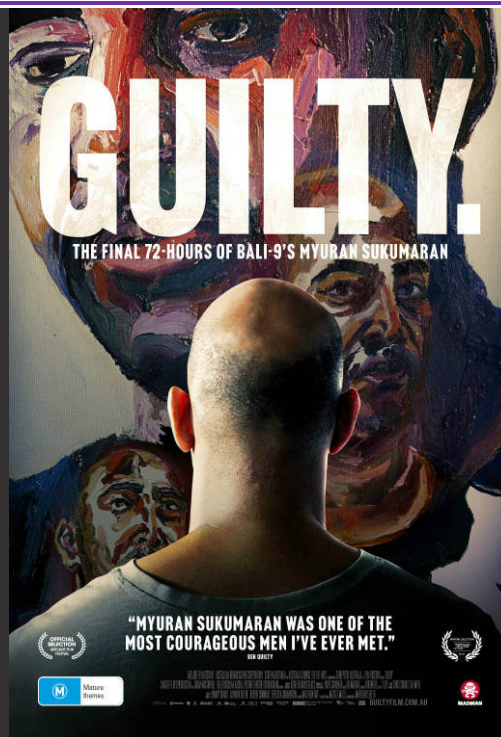
PS: If you can't get a team together, don't worry – you can still [sign up as an individual!](#)



It starts with equal

Mel

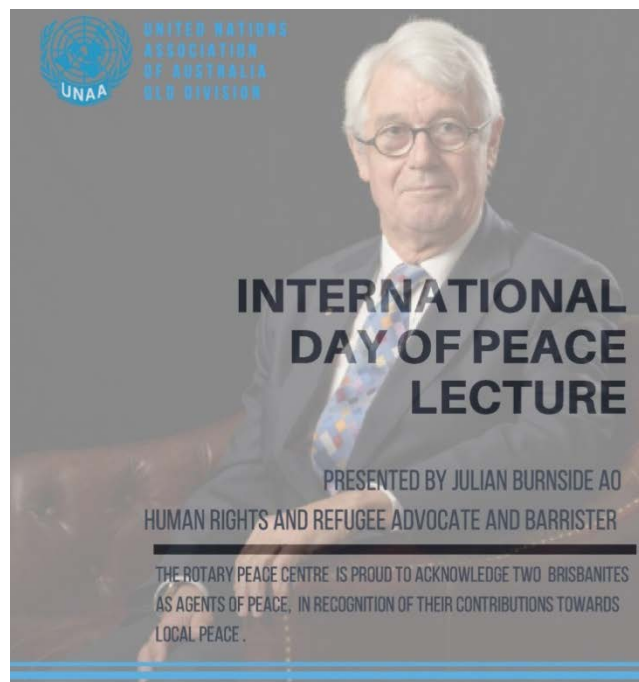
Mel Kenny
Walk in Her Shoes Coordinator
03 9009 7130
mel@walkinhershoes.org.au



PROMOTED BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, THE JULIAN WAGNER MEMORIAL FUND, AND THE AUSTRALIANS AGAINST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Date: Wed, Oct 10, 2018 6:30PM

Where: Palace Barracks
Palace Barracks 61 Petrie Terrace,
BRISBANE, Queensland, 4000,
Australia



21ST SEPTEMBER 2018

6:30 PM - 9PM • ST. JOHN CATHEDRAL, BRISBANE

LIVE MUSIC • TEA • NETWORKING

RSVP TO QLD@UNAA.ORG.AU

FREE EVENT

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WATERFORD RHC

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27TH OF OCTOBER 4:30PM
BEENLEIGH BOWLS CLUB
\$15 UNWAGED \$20 WAGED
NIBBLES & FOOD INCLUDED

PRIZE FOR BEST HALLOWEEN
DRESS UP

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WATERFORD@LIVE.COM.AU

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helping
4470 COUNTRY



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MY SAUSAGE RULES AUCTION

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Terms and Conditions

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CURRENT SENATE INQUIRIES – FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2018

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

- **New** [Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission Bill 2018 and related Bill](#)
- [My Health Records Amendment \(Strengthening Privacy\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Security Legislation Amendment \(Community Development Program\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Maintaining Income Thresholds\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Encouraging Self-sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants\) Bill 2018](#)

Community Affairs References Committee

- [Support for Australia's thalidomide survivors](#)
- [My Health Record system](#)
- [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 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](#)
- [Consumer protection in the banking, insurance and financial sector](#)
- [Non-conforming building products](#)

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

- **New** [Fair Work Amendment \(Family and Domestic Violence Leave\) Bill 2018](#)

Education and Employment References Committee

- [The appropriateness and effectiveness of the objectives, design, implementation and evaluation of jobactive](#)
- [The exploitation of general and specialist cleaners working in retail chains for contracting or subcontracting cleaning companies](#)
- [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](#)

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Improving the Energy Efficiency of Rental Properties\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Telecommunications Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Environment and Communications References Committee

- [Gaming micro-transactions for chance-based items](#)
- [Australia's faunal extinction crisis](#)
- [Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program](#)
- [Australian content on broadcast, radio and streaming services](#)
- [Water use by the extractive industry](#)
- [Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities](#)

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

- [Intelligence Services Amendment \(Enhanced Parliamentary Oversight of Intelligence Agencies\) Bill 2018](#)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

- [Defence Amendment \(Sovereign Naval Shipbuilding\) Bill 2018](#)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

- [Use of the Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force](#)
- [Proposed Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

- [Freedom of Information Legislation Amendment \(Improving Access and Transparency\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia \(Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions\) Bill 2018, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Bill 2018](#)
- [Customs Amendment \(Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership Implementation\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\], Customs Tariff Amendment \(Comprehensive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Implementation\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Censorship\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Insult and Offend\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Security\) Bill 2018](#)
- [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](#)
- [Judiciary Amendment \(Commonwealth Model Litigant Obligations\) Bill 2017](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee

- [Allegations concerning the inappropriate exercise of ministerial powers, with respect to the visa status of au pairs, and related matters](#)
- [The practice of dowry and the incidence of dowry abuse in Australia](#)

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Procedure Committee

- [Proposal to replace the parliamentary prayer with an invitation to prayer or reflection](#)

Red Tape Committee

- [The effect of red tape on private education](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

- [Regulatory approaches to ensure the safety of pet food](#)
- [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](#)

Select Committee into the obesity epidemic in Australia

- [Obesity Epidemic in Australia](#)

Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century

- [Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century](#)

Select Committee on Electric Vehicles

- [Electric Vehicles](#)

Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education

- [Stillbirth Research and Education](#)

Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers

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



Alex Ellinghausen's (Winner of Press Gallery Journalist of the Year 2018) take on female representation in Parliament