

**Senator Claire Moore**

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2018**

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Representatives of ACRATH voiced their concerns re: forced marriage and a Modern Slavery Act for Australia

**THIS WEEK:**

***The media coverage of the first speech of Senator Fraser Anning has been extensive, as has the outrage over the words of the ex-One Nation, now Katter's Australia Party member.***

***I don't intend to add very much to the assessment of his conduct as it would simply add the oxygen of publicity he so clearly needs to secure more than the 19 votes he received at the last election.***

***Rather, I would like draw attention to the amazing unity across the chambers of both houses of Parliament in a rejection of those divisive comments and a proud assertion of our multicultural nation and all the values that it encompasses.***

***Many parliamentarians rose to speak and all can be read by going to the Hansard; [www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Hansard](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard) But it will take more than a day of positive speeches to protect the most successful multi-cultural policy on earth and ensure respectful debate on migration issues.***

***Many of you may remember in 1989 then Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, calling out Opposition Leader, John Howard who had been arguing for restrictions on Asian migration as part of his One Australia policy.***

***Under pressure from Hawke Howard was to repudiate his position and apologise.***

***Bob Katter may well consider an apology as well as many people in North Queensland would have thought him a friend of Muslim migrants. They are no doubt feeling genuine hurt at this moment. As one of Katter's constituents has remarked; "I will be having words with him. It's something we all should do."***



**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 ...



### ANNING SPEECH - CHALMERS – PH - CANBERRA

"One of the greatest ever poets, Maya Angelou, once wrote that "prejudice is a burden which confuses the past, threatens the future and renders the present inaccessible". I think what Senator Anning said did all of that and more."

### ANNING SPEECH - MARLES-PARLIAMENT –ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

"Bigotry stands in the way of a prosperous Australia. Our nation has one quarter of its population born beyond its borders. Only one other country in the world has more. So Australia is more invested in the idea of multiculturalism than almost any other place on earth."

### ANNING SPEECH - WATTS – ABC 774 MELBOURNE

"Support for multiculturalism has run around 85% in Australia for the better part of a decade, during a period of high immigration, during a period of significant social change, that figure has stayed at 85%. It is hard to find issues in Australia at that level of support."

### ANNING SPEECH - WONG – SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

"We saw a speech that did not reflect a nation which has been built by people from every country, every part of this world, a strong, independent, multicultural nation. Instead we saw a speech that sought to divide us."

**"I mean we should start by saying that this bloke is a two-bit nobody who fluked his way into the Senate. Australia will forget about him, in 12 months-time when he is kicked to the curb at the next election." - Tim Watts – Labor (Gellibrand)**

### ANNING SPEECH - SHORTEN – SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

"The simple truth is this: we are a stronger, better country because of all those who've come across the seas and joined their story to ours. We know that racism fills the silences, discrimination thrives in the darkness. The only way to stop it is to haul each of those hateful falsehoods into the light and expose them for the harmful fiction they are."



### ANNING SPEECH - TONY BURKE –SKY NEWS

"Let's not forget that motion which Bill Shorten moved was almost identical to the motion that had been moved by Bob Hawke almost exactly 30 years ago. When Bob Hawke moved it, it was controversial. There was much division within the House of Reps chamber. This time no one voted against it. Now, that gives us a level of hope about how things are moving."

### ANNING SPEECH-ALY – SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

"It means something that all of us here stand up against this racism, stand up against this hatred, and stand up against the disgraceful, disgraceful use of that terminology. That neo-Nazi, white supremacist terminology. It wasn't an accident. That wasn't an accident, I won't accept that that was an accident. That was a deliberate use of a heinous, heinous word that brings back so many painful memories and sets a precedent for the future of our country that we need to stand up and stop it."

**"The use by Senator Anning of the phrase "the final solution" will stand in infamy as one of the most shameful contributions ever made to this Parliament. His resolute failure to apologise for the use of the term is damning." - Anne Aly (Speech to Parliament)**

### ANNING SPEECH - CAMERON – CANBERRA

"I actually walked out of Anning's speech because it was so bad, it was so disgraceful, and to see the Liberal/National party after that speech walk up, congratulate him and cuddle him, I think is just disgraceful."

### JOYCE, GOVT & ANNING SPEECH - MARLES-PARLIAMENT –ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

"It worries me that the former Deputy Prime Minister has just written a book in which he repeatedly talks about the plight of "the poor white regional fringe". Why does he need to qualify the term by saying "white" particularly when poverty in regional Australia is most acutely felt by indigenous Australians? And it worries me that Government ministers spuriously talk about the violence of "African Gangs" when the use of that term risks the demonising of a wonderful community and inciting hatred toward its members. These lesser acts all indulge in the politics of fear and they need to stop."

### THE NEG - CHALMERS – PH - CANBERRA

"Labor's role is to engage constructively so we can get more ambitious targets for emissions reduction and so we can get genuine downward pressure on prices by encouraging more renewable energy into the system. Malcolm Turnbull's hopelessly divided Liberal Party is incapable of putting the downward pressure on prices that Australians need and deserve."

### THE NEG – BUTLER - RN BREAKFAST

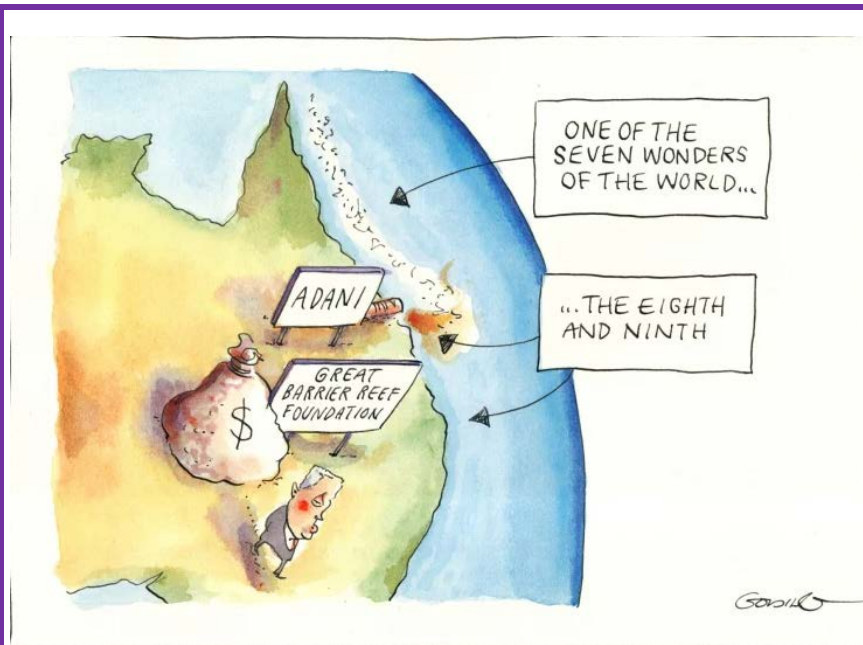
"We've been very constructive, but we've also been clear to the community, clear to the business sector, and clear to the Government that there must be a more ambitious plan for investment in our electricity sector over the course of the 2020s. We will be arguing that case in the Parliament."

### MINOR PARTIES - SHORTEN – TOWNSVILLE

"It may be superficially attractive for people in north Queensland and indeed other parts of Australia, to start looking for the politicians who bag the whole system, who look for the easy scapegoats. Politicians who promise that you can go back to 1960 as if there's been no change since then and they'll never ever have to deliver."

### INTERIM REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION- DODSON – SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

"Firstly, the report highlights that the lack of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in policy and legislation formulation is undermining the good intentions aimed at improving educational, health, economic and criminal justice outcomes. These persistent failures highlight what the Uluru Statement from the Heart termed, 'the torment of our powerlessness'."



**GBR FOUNDATION - KENEALLY - CANBERRA**

*“What we have seen from the government in question time in the past few days is an absolute unwillingness for anyone to own this idea. Nobody in government will own this idea. They won’t tell us whose idea it was. They won’t front up and say: Was it Minister Frydenberg? Was it Malcolm Turnbull? Was it some other person?”*

**GBR FOUNDATION - CHALMERS – PH - CANBERRA**

*“They have been unable to outline what role they played as Treasurer and Finance Minister of this country in almost half-a-billion dollars being shovelled out the door without a proper process, which will cost the Australian public dearly, and which demonstrates once and for all that this Malcolm Turnbull Government is a Government for Turnbull’s mates at the top end of town.”*

**GBR FOUNDATION - KENEALLY - CANBERRA**

*“Let’s put this Great Barrier Reef funding in contrast. We’ve got a government that is making farmers jump through 19-20 pages of hoops and weeks and weeks of delay just to get a lousy \$6,000 of household assistance for the drought yet half a billion dollars can be given away to a group of miners and bankers apparently just on a whim.”*

**NEW NBN CONNECTION PRICES - ROWLAND - CANBERRA**

*“The economics of the NBN are an utter shambles and all we get from this government, all we get is spin. Not a focus on the consumer, not a focus on ensuring access and equity but these sorts of regressive measures that will mean people in rural and regional areas will suffer compared to their city counterparts.”*

*“This Prime Minister retains the dubious distinction of presiding over the lowest wages growth in Australian history.” – Tanya Plibersek*

**QUOTES OF THE WEEK**

*The banking royal commission is showing late-stage neoliberalism in action: the giant corporations, the helpless regulator, the gouging and roting of “customers”, the exploitation of market power, the political protection of the whole racket by the industry’s mates and former execs in Canberra. It shows that voters’ suspicion that the system is designed to serve the interests of the powerful and corporations is well-founded. - Bernard Keane – (Crikey)*

*“There will be no buggy parking at the helipad.” — The Great Barrier Reef Foundation*

*(The controversial foundation celebrates nearly half a billion dollars by bringing mining and banking executives to a clearly sub-par tour of Hamilton Island)*

*It is long past the hour for an Australian to be our head of state, someone born here, or someone who is an Australian citizen. – Bill Shorten*

*“I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose rights and liberties I respect, and whose laws I will uphold and obey.” - Australian Citizenship Oath*

*“There are only two good outcomes here — either the energy policy is dead and we can go to the election fighting Labor on it, or Malcolm goes.” — An anonymous Coalition MP*

**HYPOCRISY OF THE WEEK**

*“You’ve got to keep these big companies under control.” - Scott Morrison (Treasurer)*

**HEADLINE OF THE WEEK**

*“MP’s hit the panic Dutton.” - The Daily Telegraph*

## A WEEK OF HYPOCRISY – David Margan

While Frazer Anning has been rightly and roundly condemned for his racist and ignorant first speech rant in Parliament let's not forget those who have been steadily sounding the dog whistles of racist debate in this country – News Ltd through its tabloid rubbish sheet, The Daily Telegraph, Sky News and their "late night horror shows", Andrew Bolt and a series of Government members,

In that last category we have for example;



The Coalition members who have pushed for race-based visas for white South Africans are in breach of Parliament. Reportedly among them, Tony Abbott, Andrew Hastie, Peter Dutton, Steve Irons, Craig Kelly, Luke Howarth, Jim Molan and Andrew Laming.

As Michael Pascoe has written this week in The New Daily when discussing the recent immigration debate and some of Peter Dutton's policy descriptions; Ah yes, "the right people, people who can integrate" – codes almost as obvious as "the final solution". It would be nice to think the fine words heard in the Senate and House of Representatives, the genuine emotions expressed, would have an impact. We'd be fooling ourselves to think so.

The right-wing nutjob element has been chipping away at civilised discourse for a decade. When they decry "political correctness", they're actually attacking civility. They've succeeded in breaking it in the name of "free speech", when their prime motive has been their own well-paid speech." Then, of course, there is Dutton and Turnbull's contribution to vilifying the Victorian Sudanese migrant community.

### NO HYPOCRISY HERE JUST STUPIDITY

Bob Katter told reporters on Wednesday that his Australian Party, which counts Senator Anning as a member, was proudly anti-Muslim.

"Get out of this country. You're not wanted here. This country will belong to Allahu Akbar," he said.

### FACT

According to a regular, large-scale survey of attitudes to migration run by Monash University, about 80 per cent of Australians support a non-discriminatory immigration program. In 2017, just 15.8 per cent of respondents said it should be possible to reject migrants based on their race or ethnicity. Although the survey found negative sentiment toward Muslims was "relatively high", the figure did not exceed 25 per cent. (Source: Scanlon Foundation's Mapping Social Cohesion study).

### REEF EXPERTS CUT - Peter Hannam Environment Editor SMH

The Turnbull government's claim its \$444 million grant to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation would spur private donations has been disputed by a leading coral scientist who says funding for his own venture has dried up in the wake of the cash splash. Charlie Veron, a marine biologist dubbed "the godfather of coral" for



discovering more than one-fifth the world's coral species, said US donors to his Corals of the World website dropped plans to donate \$60,000 once they saw "the Australian government was going to pour a fortune" into reef projects. "My source of funding has completely stopped," Dr Veron said.

Tony Burke, Labor's environment spokesman, said perverse outcomes "are going to be part of a process that wasn't thought through". "The due diligence [into the Foundation before the grant was made] was a joke."

While Labor's Kim Carr said; "The best people qualified to undertake reef research and remediation are our world-class public science agencies, not the Prime Minister's BRW Rich List mates."

### MORE REEF ANGST - Ben Packman – The Australian

The CSIRO has raised the alarm over the creation of "layers and layers" of bureaucracy as a result of the government's \$443.3 million grant to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, amid the duplication of key scientific and administrative roles. In an internal email, the CSIRO's executive director of environment, Peter Mayfield, warned that the surprise grant to the small reef charity made the oversight of scientific funding for the reef more complex. He also suggested the Australian Institute of Marine Science could be "demotivated" by the May budget funding announcement, which made the six-person private foundation the leading provider of funding for reef projects

### STILL CELEBRATING

One of the first things the Great Barrier Reef Foundation did after winning the tax payer funded grant lottery was to throw a shindig Labor has asked the charities watchdog to investigate whether the GBRF misused funds for non-charitable purposes, following revelations it hosted a "Chairman's Panel Weekend" at a \$2000-a-night Hamilton Island resort.

### THE WEATHER

Prospects of an early end to the big dry affecting much of eastern Australia are diminishing, with the latest estimates from the Bureau of Meteorology pointing to drought conditions intensifying and seeping southwards into Victoria.



GBR Foundation MD, Anna Marsden, at Hamilton Island.

Separately, new research out Wednesday points to an acceleration of global warming in the years to 2022, with natural variability predicted to accelerate the background increase in temperatures from climate change.

The bureau's [latest update on climate influences](#) in the Pacific and Indian oceans indicate that the odds of an El Nino forming by the end of the year remain about 50 per cent.

El Ninos typically result in drier and hotter than average summers for eastern Australia as rainfall shifts eastwards.

The more immediate influence, though, is coming from the Indian Ocean, where cooler-than-average waters off north-western Australia are suppressing the flow of moisture reaching southern and south-eastern states.

"If an El Nino does develop, it does look like we could see those [current dry] conditions extending through spring and into summer," Robyn Duell, acting manager of the bureau's long-range forecasting service, said. "It's really not good news."

### WHAT'S JULIE DOING ABOUT THIS?

The first day of Australian filmmaker James Ricketson's espionage trial in Cambodia has seen judges grill character witness and director Peter Weir over the accused spy's finances and connection to the Australian government. [The ABC reports](#) that Ricketson faces a stunning ten years in prison for flying a photographic drone over a political rally in Phnom Penh 14 months ago.

### AND WE THOUGHT VICTORIAN POLICE WERE TRIGGER HAPPY!

In January, the military police of the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro pledged to reduce killings by its officers by 20 percent by the end of the year. But from January to July, the number of [police killings actually increased by 39 percent](#), as compared with the same period last year. Military and civil police killed 895 people during those months. At the current rate, the state will have its bloodiest year in more than a decade. While Rio Police sometimes do kill people in self-defence, [research from Human Rights Watch](#) and [other groups](#) shows that many killings are, in reality, extrajudicial executions.

### CBA DENIES WRONGDOING

The Commonwealth Bank is under fire today for a continued denial of responsibility and refusal to compensate victims of a \$76 million loan fraud that saw perpetrators sentenced to a decade in jail yesterday.

[Fairfax reports](#) that poker player Bill Jordanou and accountant Robert Zaia have been sentenced to 12 and 10 years respectively for setting up loans in customers' names using fake documents with the alleged help of Commonwealth loan managers between 2004 and 2011. The con, described by County Court Judge Paul Lacava as one of the "largest frauds to appear before a court in this state", saw more than \$58 million in dodgy loans approved by the CBA and reportedly left up to a dozen people homeless.

### PURGATORY FEE

Colonial First State, the superannuation arm of the Commonwealth Bank, is still taking fees from the super accounts of dead people who signed contracts prior to the Future of Financial Advice reforms of 2013, the royal commission has heard.

Colonial First State general manager Linda Elkins said the bank was entitled to charge the fees on old accounts but was reviewing the practice.

As well, Commonwealth Bank's superannuation arm, Colonial First State, has admitted to breaking the law more than 15,000 times by keeping retirement savers in high-fee accounts.

Evidence to the royal commission on Tuesday showed the bank had retained at least 15,000 clients in high-fee-paying superannuation accounts despite a new law requiring it to move the customers into low-cost MySuper accounts.

The breaches could potentially attract \$160 million in fines.

For an excellent article on the threat the current mega-companies pose and the power they wield click and follow: [Big corporations wield political power in way that eludes our economic watchdog](#)

### ACADEMIC

Six Go8 universities have again been placed in the top 100 universities by the most prestigious annual global rankings – the Academic Ranking of World Universities.

"The London Economics report also set out that every one dollar of public money invested in our research generates a roughly 10 fold return for the Australian economy.

"The six Go8 universities in the top 100 of the Academic Ranking of World Universities, again led by the University of Melbourne at 38 in the world and with the University of Queensland second at 55, are behind our research capability which has 99 per cent of our research rated as world class or above," said Ms Thomson.

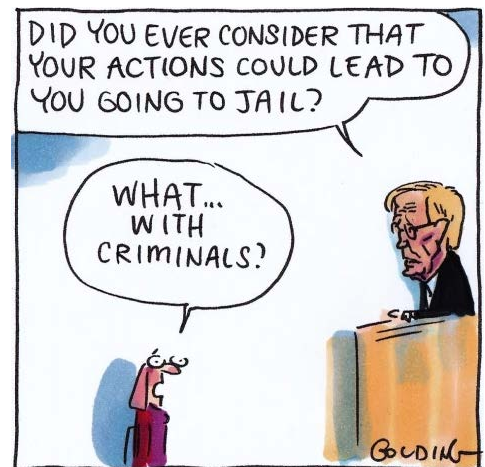
"These rankings are far more than being rated against other universities in the world, they are an illustration to the community of the effort put into research by the Go8, against continual cuts to funding by Government, and the success these universities derive from that research, through hard work, against all odds," she said.

"The issue for the Go8 and for Australia is that everything has a tipping point," said Ms Thomson. "Australia is investing less in research than previously, and far less than our competitor nations. Yet in Australia it is universities who are tasked with the majority of the nation's research, again unlike our competitor nations. Damage the Go8, damage the nation and damage our capacity to deliver for the new economy."

### WE DON'T WANT THEM - Eryk Bagshaw - The Age

The citizenship queue has blown out by more than 300 per cent under the Turnbull government, leaving migrants who have spent years in Australia without access to students loans, an Australian passport or the right to vote ahead of the next federal poll.

Department of Home Affairs figures show the number of residents waiting to be approved for citizenship has spiralled from 27,000 to 189,000 under the Coalition. More than 140,000 of those have been added while Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has been in office.



Migrants say they have been left despairing at the situation, putting their study, plans to sponsor family members and apply for government jobs on hold in the midst of a divisive debate in Canberra.

### **NO MONEY NO HEALTH - James Fernyhough Money Editor – The New Daily**

Half of Australians are spending a total of \$3 billion a year topping up GP fees and other non-hospital costs that are not fully covered by Medicare, a new government report has found.

The report, by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, found 50 per cent of Australians – or 10.9 million people – were incurring “out-of-pocket” expenses when they visited a doctor.

During the year in question, 2016-17, patients on average paid \$142 a year topping up Medicare services, but in some areas the average was double that. These Medicare services were not just GP fees. They also included specialist, diagnostic imaging and pathology services.

When these services were taken into account, the AIHW said out-of-pocket expenses were much higher than when only GP visits were considered. Last year, 86 per cent of GP services were bulk billed, and 66 per cent of patients had all of their GP services bulk billed.

Include other non-hospital services, and only 50 per cent of patients had all of their fees covered in full by Medicare.

Dr Tony Bartone, president of the Australian Medical Association, told The New Daily the Medicare rebate of \$37.60 was insufficient, with the market rate around double that.



“The Medicare rebate is completely unrealistic and out of touch with the cost of the provision of quality healthcare,” he said.

AMA president Tony Bartone says the Medicare rebate is too low. Photo: AAP

He said since Medicare was launched in 1984, the rebate had dramatically fallen out of sync with wages and inflation, a problem exacerbated by the recent four-year freeze in the Medicare rebate.

The \$3 billion was also a fraction of the total amount Australians spend on healthcare.

According to the report, we are spending a total of \$29.4 billion out of our own pockets on healthcare, not including health insurance premiums. The biggest portion of that – \$10.8 billion –

goes to medicine. We spend \$5.7 billion on dental care, \$3.3 billion on hospital services, and \$2.8 billion on aids and appliances, such as glasses, wheelchairs and hearing aids.

### **FREEDOM? - Bernard Keane (Crikey)**

‘In addition to its village idiot approach to undermining end-to-end encryption in new surveillance laws, the government is also seeking a blunt-force trauma approach: it wants to jail people for a decade if they refuse to give up the password to their devices.

Under the draft [Assistance and Access Bill 2018](#) unveiled yesterday, the government is giving police, spy agencies and regulators like the ATO the power to demand that tech companies help them plant malware on computers and phones to help it defeat end-to-end encryption.

But if they’re not able to access your device to put a virus on it, the government proposes to give them another option. They can go to a judge or AAT member and obtain an order directing anyone who may know anything about the device to help them get access to it. If that person fails to help, they face “imprisonment for 10 years or 600 penalty units, or both.” Six hundred penalty units is currently over \$120,000.

The inclusion of AAT members is handy, as the government has stacked the AAT with Liberal figures, including the micro-thin-skinned former right-wing Tasmanian MP Andrew Nikolic, who [publicly attacked](#) debate around civil liberties as interfering with the work of intelligence agencies.”

### **“Bigotry is not sophisticated.” – Tony Burke Adjournment Debate Parliament**

In the Longman by election they are now allocating preferences to One Nation, not following John Howard's lead on putting One Nation last. We had the 18C legislation not referred to during the election campaign suddenly brought on the Parliament to give extra licence for racist hate speech.

We had the Immigration Minister stand right there and refer to Australians not as second and third generation Australians but as second and third generation Lebanese Muslims and then described them as a mistake. We had the Government introduce university level English test but you didn't have to read university level English if you were immigrating from the five English speaking nations that are predominantly white.

Canada, the United States, Ireland, the UK or New Zealand, they didn't have to do the test. Only the people from the non-white countries if they had grown up with English had to do it. We had the Member for New England constantly in his book ‘Weatherboard and iron’ referring to the poor, white regional fringe. Why is the White reference there all the time? I say to those opposite it's not good enough to turn up to the community fundraisers and events and say all the right things there and think people won't notice what's been happening in the Parliament.

Don't apologise for racism, don't imitate it and don't preference it.”



### **SHOW ME THE MONEY**

As the Queensland Liberal National Party launch legal action trying to have the Palaszczuk governments ban on developer donations to local and state government election campaigns overturned as ‘unconstitutional’ the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission has announced it is investigating another local government entity, the Moreton Bay Regional Council.

That means four of the largest local councils in south east Queensland are under investigation for corruption with many of the charges related to the activities of developers. And we all know who runs what could be loosely called town planning in south east Queensland, it ain't us –it's the developer lobby

## FUNNY

A siege in the South Australian town of Wallaroo has been “resolved safely” after police discovered no one inside the house.



### **DIVERSITY ISN'T GARBAGE, SENATOR ANNING'S SPEECH IS! – Terri Butler**

**This week, Senator Anning showed what he and Katter's Australia Party really stand for.**

Not only did he advocate for a return to the White Australia policy, and emulate Nazi dogma, he attacked gender diverse and young LGBTIQ Australians.

In what can only be described as a disgusting and disgraceful attack on diversity and inclusion, Senator Anning described gender fluidity and the Safe Schools program as 'garbage'.

It is unacceptable that, in 2018, a member of the Parliament of Australia thinks that it's acceptable to denigrate some of society's most vulnerable people. 16 per cent of young LGBTIQ people have attempted suicide, and that figure rises to 48 per cent in trans and gender nonconforming people.

Senator Anning's comments do nothing to help these numbers. Safe Schools is not garbage. Gender fluidity is not garbage. Preaching hate and bigotry is.

**\*\*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 \*\***



### **HEALTH CARE COSTS SOAR UNDER TURNBULL AND HUNT - King**

**The cost of health care is spiralling out of control under Malcolm Turnbull, with a new report completely demolishing the Government's claims around Medicare bulk billing rates and out-of-pocket costs.**

After four years of the Abbott-Turnbull Medicare freeze, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report has finally laid bare the full extent of the health affordability crisis in Australia.

Despite Turnbull's promise that no one would pay more to see a doctor under his Government, the report shows Australians are spending nearly \$30 billion on out of pocket health expenses a year.

That includes \$3 billion a year on non-hospital Medicare-subsidised services.

Half of all patients have incurred out-of-pocket costs to see a GP or specialist, or to have blood tests, X-rays or other scans.

Seventy per cent of patients seeing specialists made some out-of-pocket payment. And more than a million people spent \$600 or more on medical gap fees.

As a result of these soaring costs, 1.3 million people are either delaying or skipping seeing a doctor or getting a test when they need to – putting their wellbeing and possibly even their lives at risk.

The report also exposes Minister Hunt's bulk billing lies. The data shows only 66 per cent of patients are bulk billed by their GP – a far cry from the 86 per cent figure the Minister trots out on a daily basis.

The Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association now confirms the figures cited by the Minister are “misleading”. That's a nice way of saying they are a complete con-job and totally meaningless.

Despite all this, the Government has done nothing on out-of-pocket costs, shunting the issue off to a committee and saying nothing more about it.

The Liberals make the laughable claim that “Medicare has never been stronger” and their commitment to it is “rock solid”.

And yet they still haven't fully lifted their Medicare freeze, with elements to remain in place for a further two years – forcing these out of control costs up even further.

Whether it's making Medicare more expensive, cutting public hospitals or putting health insurance profits before patients – Turnbull and Hunt can never be trusted on health.

Labor created Medicare, and only Labor will ensure that Australians can access the health care they deserve.

## SENATE ADOPTS LABOR'S PLAN FOR AN INQUIRY INTO MY HEALTH RECORD - King

The Senate has agreed to Labor's proposal to subject Malcolm Turnbull's My Health Record fiasco to a comprehensive inquiry amid significant ongoing privacy and security concerns.

We remain deeply concerned that the Government's bungled rollout of the My Health Record opt-out period has severely undermined public trust in this important reform. That's why we proposed an inquiry on Tuesday. Labor has long supported an electronic health record system. We believe it has the capacity to revolutionise health care delivery, but we also recognise it needs a high degree of public support in order to be successful.

While the Government has agreed to a number of changes demanded by Labor and doctors' groups, including an extension of the opt-out period and a new public information campaign, more needs to be done.

We are disappointed the Greens did a dodgy deal with the Government to truncate the inquiry but Labor's terms of reference remain intact. We're also surprised the Government ended up supporting the inquiry referral despite Greg Hunt yesterday dismissing Labor's proposal as "a stunt".

This will be a wide-ranging inquiry that will review all the laws, regulations and rules that underpin the My Health Record.

It will examine the Government's decision to shift from an opt-in system to an opt-out system and whether it adequately prepared for this fundamental change from Labor's system.

It will examine a range of privacy and security concerns, including the adequacy of the system's log-in procedures and default settings. It will also consider issues raised in the public domain around domestic violence and workers' compensation.

The inquiry will look at the adequacy of the Government's public information campaign, and the potential that commercial interests – including health insurers – could be given access to My Health data.

We encourage everyone with a view on the My Health Record to make a submission to the inquiry.

Labor remains of the view the Government should suspend the My Health Record rollout until this mess can be cleaned up.

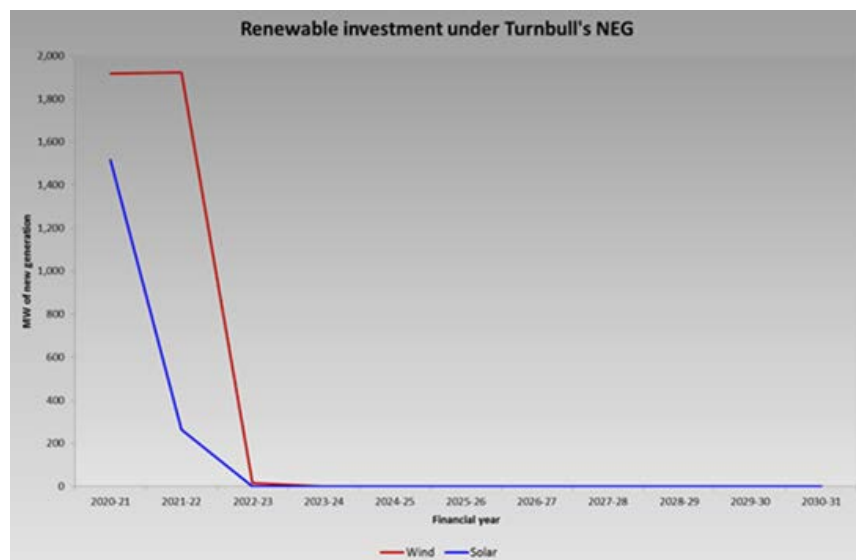
## ENERGY POLICY

### BATTERY NOT INCLUDED - Butler/Collins/Keay/Hart/ Mitchell

The Turnbull Government's National Energy Guarantee (NEG) is this Government's grand energy vision, but as an embarrassing consequence of the NEG's lack of ambition and support for renewable energy, it does not include Tasmania's Battery of the Nation project.

This week in Question Time, the Prime Minister and Energy Minister were unable to explain how a NEG that includes no new renewable investment post 2021, and contemplates taxpayers underwriting new coal generation, is consistent with the growth in Tasmanian pumped hydro storage and new wind generation that sits at the heart of the Battery of the Nation project.

The fact is it isn't.



The Battery of the Nation is a project based on a clear renewable energy vision for Australia's energy future.

As its main proponent, Hydro Tasmania, have said, ***"The Battery of the Nation initiative supports Australia to embrace cost-effective renewable energy generation while maintaining secure, reliable electricity supply."***

It is simply not consistent with Malcolm Turnbull's NEG, which devastates national renewable energy investment, driving it off a cliff in 2021, as can be seen in the chart below which is entirely derived from Energy Security Board (ESB) modelling of the NEG.

That is why ESB modelling of the NEG assumes the Battery of the Nation project does not proceed.

When pressed on the impacts of his NEG for the Battery of the Nation project in Question Time, rather than being honest with the people of Tasmania, the Prime Minister bizarrely claimed the Battery of the

Nation was all his idea to begin with.

Tasmanians know their Battery of the Nation vision isn't Malcolm Turnbull's; it's an idea that has a long history in Tasmania with strong support from many industry players including former Hydro Electric Commission Chairman Peter Rae. And it's an idea that only stacks up alongside a broader transition to renewable energy.

Labor understand the energy transition we need to ensure a clean, modern energy system, and we understand the huge potential that transition brings to Tasmania, in terms of jobs, clean and affordable energy and lower pollution.

It is a transition the divided, anti-renewable Coalition cannot and will not deliver.

Instead, Malcolm Turnbull's capitulation to the hard-right on energy policy means no Battery of the Nation, and higher power bills for Tasmanians.



## ENVIRONMENT

### LABOR WILL NOT PRIVATISE PUBLIC GOOD RESEARCH – Burke/Carr

**A Shorten Labor Government will ensure that public good research will be led by Australia's world leading research agencies.**

Revelations this week – in National Science Week – have uncovered the sham that Malcolm Turnbull and Josh Frydenberg have entered into to justify the unorthodox \$444 million grant to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF). This grant effectively side lines our expert research agencies such as the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS).



This sham now sees our public research agencies being forced to go cap in hand to a private charity to gain access to taxpayer funds.

Labor will never privatise public good science.

Under this Government's unorthodox \$444 million lump sum grant to a small private foundation with only six fulltime staff, \$100 million is to be allocated to reef science.

Labor has called for this money to be returned to the Department Environment and Energy so it can be managed in co-operation with the premier science agencies in reef research – AIMS and the CSIRO.

AIMS and the CSIRO have long partnered with universities such as James Cook University, the University of Queensland, research centres like the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies as well as non-government bodies such as the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, traditional owner groups and community groups in conducting research on the Great Barrier Reef.

A competitive tender would have meant that all of these agencies would have been able to apply for funding.

Instead the Turnbull government has picked a "winner" and given them almost half a billion dollars in one cheque in one go.

The work of Government departments and research agencies means they are the institutions well placed to advise how to preserve the reef. There is a role for all stakeholders and when a tender is run they all get a chance to be involved.

This grant takes the undermining of these agencies a step further, because now a private organisation will be able to determine what research they undertake on the reef and what resources they will receive in order to do it.

The Foundation has been forced – courtesy of the incompetence of this government – to establish yet another layer of bureaucracy including advisory committees, expenditure priority committees, a chief scientist, all of which will duplicate the capabilities and knowledge held by the Commonwealth.

This sees potential research money directed into unnecessary administrative duplication, creating un-necessary waste and red tape.

When private interests, not the public interest, are able to determine the agenda for scientific research, science itself is placed in jeopardy.

We will not allow private agendas to threaten the work of Australia's publicly funded research agencies, and the conduct of science for the public good.

### GBRF KNOWS HOW TO SPLASH ITS CASH – AND IT'S NOT ON THE REEF - Burke

For months the Government has been claiming the reason it gave nearly half a billion dollars to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, rather than using the normal Government agencies, was because the Foundation has a unique capacity to leverage private investment. It has now emerged exactly how the foundation goes on to spend the money that it has leveraged.



*"over three days at a luxury island resort where private villas cost more than \$2000 a night...Private sector leaders and chief executives were treated to a snorkelling excursion and a beach bonfire in a "unique education program" at Qualia on Hamilton Island in May." – Daily Telegraph 14 August 2018*

Leveraging private investment doesn't mean that that money goes back to the Reef, some of it has been going straight to island trips for the donors.

Despite claims of due diligence, the Government still doesn't know how much money has been privately leveraged. Josh Frydenberg in different interviews has claimed the Foundation has raised \$80 million, \$65 million, and \$60 million. The Foundation itself uses a different figure altogether.

We now know how some of that money was spent, and it wasn't on the Reef. The program for the Qualia trip is attached.

## **GBRF FUNDING COSTS BUDGET \$11M AND RAISES MORE QUESTIONS – Bowen/Chalmers**

**Every day more revelations come from the rotting carcass that is Malcolm Turnbull's \$440 million grant of taxpayer money to close banker and miner friends at the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.**

It defies logic that the Treasury and Finance would have provided support for this decision, particularly given the lack of process that led to the \$440 million being granted in the first place.

**The rapid transfer of \$440 million from the Commonwealth to the GBRF costs the taxpayer at least \$11 million dollars in public debt interest.**

Instead of contributing to paying down debt, the \$440 million is accruing interest for the Foundation, and under the terms of the Turnbull Government's, the first \$21 million of interest can be used for administration costs.

**It's hard to believe that the Treasurer or Finance Minister were absent at the meeting that saw \$440 million handed over without any sort of competitive or tender process beforehand.**

This scandal has given rise to a number of questions for the Treasury and Finance who have important roles to play in the Expenditure Review Committee process and safeguarding taxpayer money.

- When did the Treasurer and Finance Minister first learn of this proposal?
- When did Treasury and Finance first learn that the \$440 million would be provided to the GBRF?
- When did Treasury and Finance learn that the \$440 million would be provided in the financial year 2017-18 only?
- Did the Treasury and/or Finance sign-off on this funding being provided without a contestable or tender process?
- Did Finance argue that funding should have been broken up and provided over a longer-term period with appropriate milestones needing to be met before more funding being provided?
- Did Finance scrutinise the payment of \$44 million for the Foundation for administration costs?
- Was Finance asked to provide a costing for this policy?
- Did Finance approve the costings of this policy?
- When did Finance enter the \$440 million into the Budget estimates?

The Treasury and Finance need to attend and fully participate in the Senate inquiry.

## **GOVERNMENT UNABLE TO PROVIDE EXACT FUNDRAISING FIGURE - Burke**

**This week, in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Government again could not answer the direct question about how much money the Great Barrier Reef Foundation has fundraised.**

The first figure was \$80 million then it was \$65 million and then \$60 million and today they wouldn't even give a number.

The Government has claimed over and over again that it conducted due diligence prior to the offer of half a billion dollars being made. But how on earth can the Government claim there was extensive due diligence when they cannot settle one single dollar amount?

It was also revealed today that the Great Barrier Reef Foundation had to contract out a 'fundraising plan consultant' to conduct their fundraising.

But yet the Government claims that fundraising is the core expertise of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

When the Government didn't contact the Foundation, didn't go through the reports, didn't know how much money the foundation had raised how can the Prime Minister be sure this private foundation is best suited to handle half a billion dollars and the health of our precious Reef?

## **GOVT LOCKS IN LARGEST REMOVAL OF AREA UNDER CONSERVATION EVER! -Burke**

**The Australian Parliament has just locked in the largest removal of area under conservation in history.**

The Senators considered each of the Marine Park Management Plans and the disallowance motions moved by Labor Senator Louise Pratt have each been defeated.

This is a shocking day for conservation.

No Government anywhere in the world has ever removed an area this large from conservation on land or sea. The process, which was commenced by Tony Abbott in 2013 has now been completed by Malcolm Turnbull and locked in by the Senate.

At a time when the health of our oceans has never been worse the rest of the world has been adding marine protected areas at the exact same time as Australia has been removing them.

Labor acknowledges the support of the Senators from the Green Party during this process.

The fight to protect our oceans will continue. It must. Labor will have more to say on this in the near future.



**WORKERS**

## **REAL WAGES GOING NOWHERE UNDER MALCOLM TURNBULL- Plibersek**

**Australians know that under Malcolm Turnbull and the Liberals everything's going up except their wages. They feel it. It's getting harder and harder to make ends meet.**

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) wage data, under the Turnbull Government, wages growth over the year was 2.1 per cent - the same as growth in the CPI.

With overall wages growth on par with inflation, real wages continue to stagnate – and Australian workers are struggling to keep up with the cost of living.

Wages in the private sector – which accounts for about 85 per cent of the Australian workforce – rose by just 2.0 per cent, which means private sector real wages have gone backwards.

According to the ABS data, in the June quarter 2018 wages increased by 0.6 per cent to be 2.1 per cent higher over the year. Annual wages growth remains around record lows.

Malcolm Turnbull has presided over the lowest wages growth since records began, and yet he wants to further cut the wages of hard working Australians by getting rid of their penalty rates. Mr Turnbull holds the dubious record that wages growth has never been as low under any previous Prime Minister or Government.

Neither the Prime Minister, the Minister for Jobs nor her junior Minister have a single policy to grow wages and reduce inequality.

Instead, they support cuts to wages through slashing penalty rates, argue against increasing the minimum wage, and focus all their energy on advocating for a \$17 billion tax handout for the big banks.

Australians deserve a pay rise – and they aren't getting one under Malcolm Turnbull.

### **ONCE AGAIN CASH AVOIDS SCRUTINY - Plibersek/Cameron**

**In Senate Question Time yesterday, Minister Cash once again refused to confirm whether or not she has been interviewed by the AFP regarding the unlawful leak to the media of the Registered Organisations Commission raid on the AWU.**



When asked by Senator Doug Cameron if she could confirm to the Senate that she has not been interviewed by the AFP, Senator Cash absolutely avoided answering the question.

**SENATOR CASH:** "Senator Cameron I have confirmed time and time again this is not an investigation into me or my office, no matter how many times you try to say it is. I have also stated that, as you know, the AFP, has requested public interest immunity in relation to this and I respect what they have requested." -

**SENATE QT, THURSDAY, 16 AUGUST 2018**

It is absolutely unacceptable that Senator Cash continues to be a minister yet cannot clearly answer whether or not she has been interviewed by the AFP. Why

can't she just tell the truth?

Senator Cash told Senate Estimates last year that her former senior media advisor admitted to her that he was a source of the leak. It seems that the Senator is being too clever with words when she now says that her office is not under AFP investigation.

Unanswered questions remain as to how far this scandal extends regarding the involvement of other Ministerial offices.

The AFP has not yet ruled out whether Minister Cash or Minister Keenan have been interviewed over media leaks of the AWU raids. Nor has the AFP ruled out if either of the ministers have been interviewed as suspects or about their knowledge.

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

### **UNDEREMPLOYMENT AND LOW WAGES GROWTH IS HURTING AUSTRALIANS-Plibersek**

**Data recently released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics highlights the fact that stubbornly high underemployment and stagnant wages growth are hurting Australian families.**

The number of underemployed Australians – that is people wanting more work but not being able to find it - is at 1.123 million. When coupled with the number of unemployed, it means there are more than 1.8 million Australians who are looking for work or more hours.

Labor welcomes the very small drop in the unemployment rate. But we are concerned that there are still 706,000 unemployed Australians, with 11,300 more people lining the unemployment queue than when the Abbott-Turnbull Government was elected.

The youth unemployment rate remains more than double the national average.

When it comes to secure, decent jobs, Malcolm Turnbull remains silent. His only plan is to attack workers' wages by supporting cuts to penalty rates. Under Malcolm Turnbull and his Liberals, Australians are suffering with insecure work, stagnant wages and skyrocketing cost of living pressures.

Mr Turnbull and his Liberals are too arrogant and out of touch to acknowledge these challenges, let alone come up with any policy initiatives to deal with them.

Instead, the Liberals support cuts to wages by slashing penalty rates at the same time as they want to give a \$17 billion tax handout to the banks. Their priorities are all wrong.

### **DUTTON'S DEPT BACKS PUBLIC SERVICE STAFF POLICY Chalmers/Neumann**

**Peter Dutton's Home Affairs Department has thrown its support behind Labor's plan to abolish the Liberals' arbitrary public service staffing cap while sticking to an overall spending cap.**

In a submission to the Independent Review of the Public Service, the Department [wrote](#) about the Average Staffing Level (ASL) cap that:

**The Department suggests that providing more flexibility and devolved authority to agencies to manage average staffing levels (ASL), while remaining within strict budget parameters, would result in resourcing decisions that more optimally meet the demands of growth in workload, deliver programs with improved services, better address risks and grow revenue collection.**

The Department's submission backs in Labor's recently announced policy to abolish the ASL cap to allow agencies to set their staffing levels based on operational requirements, but within an overall budget.

As the Department recognises, this is not a free-for-all. It's about giving departments like Home Affairs the flexibility to decide their own staffing needs within their own budget allocation.

Staffing levels have real impacts on frontline services. In Dutton's mega-Department alone, visa processing times – including partner visas – have blown out-of-control whilst the number of permanent residents waiting for their citizenship to be approved has [increased](#) by more than 300 per cent under the Turnbull Government.

The Liberals' arbitrary ASL cap has become counterproductive, leading to a hollowing out of the public service and sparking a blowout in spending on contractors and consultants.

Abolishing the cap will help ensure expertise, experience and corporate memory is retained in the public service by encouraging agencies to employ permanent bureaucrats over contractors and consultants.

Our plan helps deliver the quality services and value for money Australians need and deserve.

Seeing as Peter Dutton is working to secure the Prime Minister's job, he can start by supporting his Department's call to scrap the public service staffing cap.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### HUMILIATING BACKDOWN ON REGIONAL BROADBAND PRICE HIKE – Rowland/Jones

**Only 16 hours after NBNCo let the cat out of the bag, Mitch Fifield has made a humiliating retreat from plans to charge regional consumers on the fixed-wireless network \$20 more to access broadband than consumers in the city.**

At 6.15pm last night, the NBN CFO revealed plans to charge regional consumers \$20 more per month for a 50 Mbps plan than what a customer in the city customer would pay. The comments [are available here](#).

By 9.00am this morning, an NBN spokesman doubled down on the position during an ABC Hobart radio interview:

**PRESENTER:** Is it fair that customers, who just, by I guess where they live, have to pay more for a service that's available in the city?

**NBN SPOKESMAN:** Well this is one of the realities of the internet.

At 9.45am [Labor said the price hike must be dropped](#), and called on the National Party to step in and pull the Liberals and the NBNCo into line.

At 11.30am the capitulation was on, with an embarrassed Mitch Fifield declaring in a statement that NBN was embarking on a "fresh round of product consultations".

Come midday, NBNCo was virtually pretending there was no hearing of the Joint Standing Committee last night, that [the CFO's comments](#) had been a figment of everyone's imagination, and claiming no decision had been taken.

Labor welcomes the capitulation on this unfair and unjust pricing change. This is a win for regional consumers and the principle of equity in telecommunications which only Labor can be trusted to protect.

It is difficult to believe the Minister had no idea what NBNCo was planning, especially given the duration of consultation on these changes.

In the event the Minister had no idea what was going on, as was the case with the NBN HFC halt, he must seriously reassess his commitment to governance of the portfolio.

Australia cannot afford to have a Minister who never knows what is happening, is constantly thrown under the bus by key portfolio agencies, and has not demonstrated a strand of vision for the future of the communications sector.

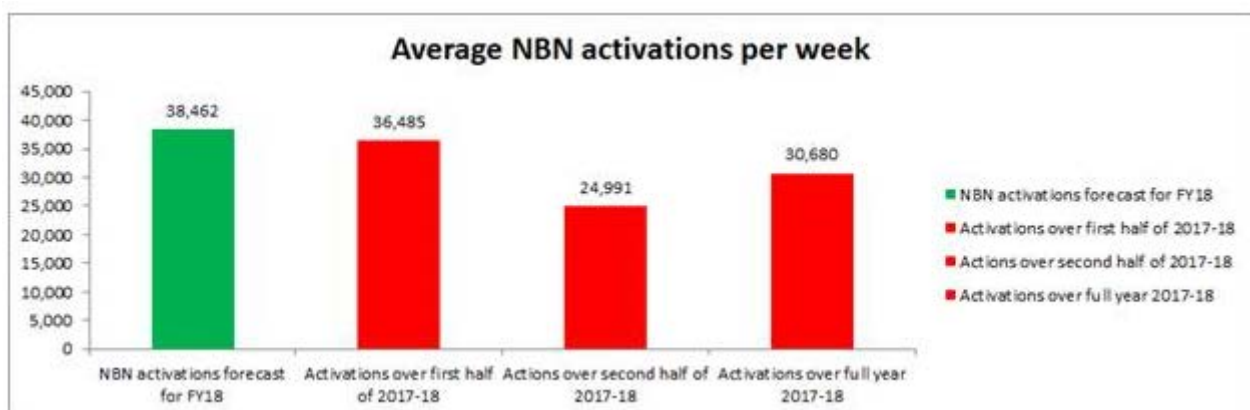
### NBN REVENUE FORECASTS DESIGNED WITH ONE THING IN MIND: SPIN-Rowland

**Serious questions remain as to whether the 2017-18 revenue target in the 2018 NBN Corporate Plan was set low in order to spin a public relations coup for the Turnbull Government upon release of the full year NBN financial results this Thursday.**

Despite the nationwide HFC halt that led to NBN missing their activations target by 0.4 million premises, NBNCo is somehow still expected to exceed its \$1.9 billion revenue target for 2017-18 in the 2018 Corporate Plan.

[NBNCo has argued](#) this counter-intuitive result was due to *strong activations* over the first half of 2017-18. Yet an analysis of this period indicates the average activations rate over the first half was **5 per cent behind** forecasts, and that activations in the second half **were 35 per cent behind** forecasts.

Further, a review of the [third quarter results](#) also indicates it would have been possible for NBN to halt the HFC rollout in November 2017, *then halt the entire NBN rollout on 31 March 2018*, and still be on track to exceed the 2017-18 revenue targets of \$1.9 billion!



**Data source: Commissioned Parliamentary Library calculation of activations from data in [NBN weekly reports](#) and [2018 NBN Corporate Plan forecasts](#).**

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**In other words: the revenue target set by NBNCo was nearly impossible to miss.** Senior executive bonuses [are linked to reaching this target](#). In 2016-17, NBNCo paid out \$66 million in bonuses.

The Turnbull Government needs to explain whether the target was set low to create potential for self-congratulatory spin upon release of the full year results on Thursday.

This isn't the first time the Liberals have tried to spin their second-rate NBN, and it won't be the last.

## CHILDCARE

### AND THE SURVEY SAYS: FAMILIES DESERTED BY TURNBULL- Rishworth

The [Australian Childcare Alliance's survey](#) cuts through the Turnbull Government's spin and exposes the truth – the transition to their new child care system has been a debacle.

The survey describes some of the horror stories, from the front line, that providers are going through in their transition to the new unfair child care system.

The government left providers to pick up the pieces of its messy transition – all the new paperwork, new registrations of educators and families, new IT and software – with many confirming they have been left in the dark and out of pocket.



When 66 per cent of providers surveyed said the transition went 'terribly', the Minister's "high degree of confidence" is exposed as nothing more than arrogance and hubris.

A month and a half later, parents and providers are still battling the new system with many of these issues still not resolved.

When providers were asked; 'Did your service's preparation for the CCS (Child Care Subsidy) result in a smooth transition?', there was an overwhelming response of no, and comments included:

- *"Despite being organised we were let down by government and support from software company."*
- *"We were in a great position until it came time to submit attendances. We have since had 0 support and repeated conflicting information in trying to resolve issues."*

Whilst providers are battling with a poorly managed transition, families are battling with a poorly designed system which unfairly leaves hundreds of thousands worse off.

Alarming, this report shows there are more families than first thought who are worse off in the new system – providers state in the survey that more than 1 in 3 of their families are worse off.

Working at the coal face, providers are watching as children's access to early learning is reduced or cut completely. Providers said:

- *I have had families either drop their child's days as their only eligible for certain hours. I've had children who attended full time drop to 4 days as the difference in fees were massive. I've had children leave the service completely as the mother failed the activity test even though the dad was working full time. I've some families that are paying the same and some that are now paying \$80 extra a fortnight.*
- *Families who used to receive subsidy are no longer eligible, resulting in children being pulled out of care.*
- *Failure of Govt to process parents eligibility in a suitable timeframe leaving them with significant out of pocket expenses.*
- *It has been frustrating for some families at our service - all children have additional needs but not necessarily a formal diagnosis or Carer's allowance which would provide access to CCS hours. This has been a problem for a number of families!!!!*

The Turnbull Government promised a simpler and fairer system – instead they have presided over a complete debacle and a system that is more complex and more unfair.

## SOCIAL SERVICES

### ROBODEBT 'PAUSE' DOESN'T GO FAR ENOUGH – Burney/Collins/Cameron

The Turnbull Government has conceded that their [expansion](#) of Robodebt to the most vulnerable Australians was ill-considered and seriously risky.

The Minister was forced into a messy back-down under pressure from Labor in Question Time today.

*"Considering the vulnerabilities of some people that do owe us debts, I've asked that the trial we have conducted here is put on pause."*

*[Michael Keenan, Minister for Human Services, 15 August 2018]*

It should not have come to this. The Turnbull Government should have learnt from their mistakes. The Government's own figures show their Robodebt program has got it wrong on almost 20,000 occasions.

Expanding the Robodebt program to vulnerable Australians, including those living with serious mental ill health, is deeply irresponsible.

It's clear the Turnbull Government didn't think through their latest cruel Robodebt expansion.

How do they expect a person who is homeless to find records from years ago to defend themselves against a sudden allegation?

Too many Australians have already been caught up in this bureaucratic nightmare.

**The Turnbull Government shouldn't just pause the expansion of Robodebt to the most vulnerable Australians – they should scrap it entirely.**

## NDIS QUARTERLY REPORT SHOWS NDIA STAFF CAP MUST BE SCRAPPED- Burney



The latest NDIS quarterly report has underlined the need for the Government to lift the NDIA staffing cap, with the rollout behind schedule, and complaints and underutilisation rates remaining too high.

Scheme rollout is continuing to fall behind, and is currently running at just 69 per cent of the transition targets – the equivalent of over 56,000 people missing out on the NDIS.

The rate of complaints has increased in the latest quarter, with a total of 20,510 complaints lodged since the scheme began.

It is very concerning that plan utilisation has not significantly improved – indicating that people are not getting the services they need.

For the most recently reported quarter, over 70 per cent of people are using less than 50 per cent of their plans. Overall, almost half of all NDIS participants are using less than 50 per cent of their plan.

The good news is that the NDIS rollout is approaching the half-way mark nationally, with over 54,000 Australians receiving support for the first time. The Government needs to listen to the advice of the Productivity Commission and follow Labor's lead by lifting the arbitrary NDIA staff cap. Scrapping the staff cap will give the NDIA the flexibility to invest in training and deal with the delays, mistakes and frustrations which too many people with disability, their carers and advocates have experienced.

### DISABILITY

## MORE DATA SHOWS ROYAL COMMISSION NEEDED - Brown

A Royal Commission into violence and abuse against people with disability is needed now more than ever.

New data from the National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline reveals that complaints of abuse have climbed by over [30%](#) compared with [six months ago](#). Yet the Government has failed to act and it's failing to bring justice to victims of abuse.

Advocates have identified that over [90% of women with an intellectual disability have been victims of sexual assault](#) and it's unacceptable that the Government won't do what's necessary to shine a light on the extent of abuse and neglect.

People with disability, their families and carers have long been calling for a Royal Commission.

15 months ago, 163 organisations, including St Vincent de Paul Society, Anglicare and Amnesty International called on the Prime Minister to announce a Royal Commission.

Yet the Prime Minister has been missing in action.

While Malcolm Turnbull claims to have raised this matter with the Disability Reform Council, his spokesman [failed to respond to journalists](#) when asked if these communications would be released publicly.

Victims of abuse deserve more. They deserve action immediately.

It's time the Government followed Labor's lead to establish a Royal Commission into violence and abuse against people with disability.

Only a Royal Commission can see justice brought to bear and only a Royal Commission can respond to continuing instances of abuse.

### SENIORS

## AGED CARE CRISIS DEEPENS - Collins

The release of the [latest data](#) on the Turnbull Government's home care packages has revealed 108,000 older Australians are languishing waiting for home care.

This includes more than 88,000 older Australians waiting with high needs, many with dementia.

It is now abundantly clear why the Turnbull Government deliberately delayed the release of this data for months - more older Australians continue to wait for the home care they need. As the list grows longer and longer, fresh stories emerge daily of older Australians waiting years for home care.

The Prime Minister can find \$17 billion for the big banks but has failed to deliver one new dollar of funding for aged care. Malcolm Turnbull's 'baby boomer' Budget has been further exposed as a cruel hoax on older Australians.

With the waiting list growing by almost 4,000 older Australians in just three months, the 3,500 new home care packages a year committed in the Budget won't come close to keeping pace with demand.

The Turnbull Government must come clean on when the 14,000 packages announced in the Budget will be released.

It should also immediately commit to releasing the June quarter of data when it is due later this month.

Since the first release of data, the waiting list for home care has grown from 88,000 older Australians to 108,000.

The Minister has already admitted the Government will need to consider other interventions to reduce the list, but with older Australians waiting years for care this action needs to be happening now.

Serious questions remain about whether these numbers are even an accurate picture of the number of older Australians waiting for care after being delayed for so long. The Turnbull Government needs to apologise for over promising and under delivering for older Australians.

## THE LAW

### **MORE WORK TO BE DONE ON FAMILY COURT REFORMS - Dreyfus**

Labor welcomes the government's belated release of a key consultants' report relevant to its planned restructure of the Family Court, after repeated requests from Labor and stakeholders.

However the release of the PwC report, *Review of efficiency of the operation of the federal courts*, does not make up for the government's woeful lack of consultation ahead of the announcement of its reforms.

The current ructions in the court system, reported on in [The Australian](#) today, are a direct result of this lack of consultation.

The PwC report, which was completed in six weeks through a combination of "desktop assessment of court data" and "engagement with senior family law court stakeholders", will now be thoroughly analysed and its assumptions tested. It is also vital to determine the extent to which the terms of reference given by the government to the authors of the report influenced its findings.

The report did not consider the potential impact of increasing funding to the courts in its assessment – a surprising and significant omission.

Labor is yet to see the government's proposed legislation, and will reserve its position until that time.

### **CRIMINALISATION OF IMAGE-BASED ABUSE NEARS REALITY - Rowland**

Three years after Labor first introduced a Private Members' Bill to criminalise image-based abuse, the Enhancing Online Safety (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Bill 2017, introducing both civil and criminal offences, has finally passed the House of Representatives.



Labor welcomes the government coming to the party on the need for a specific criminal offence that sends a strong and clear message to the community that the non-consensual sharing of private sexual material is not acceptable.

Labor's commitment to tackling this pernicious form of abuse has been unwavering and we are pleased the government has finally accepted the evidence and followed Labor's lead on this issue.

For years, Labor and community stakeholders have called for a specific criminal offence yet, until now, the Turnbull Government has maintained that existing criminal law is enough.

**In October 2015**, Labor first introduced a Private Members' Bill into Parliament to criminalise the sharing of private sexual material without consent. Labor took a policy to criminalise image-based abuse to the 2016 Federal Election, undertaking to do so within the first 100 days of being elected.

**In October 2016**, Labor reintroduced its Private Members' Bill into the current Parliament but it lapsed in 2017 because the government refused to call it on for debate.

**In June 2017**, Labor moved a second reading amendment calling on the Turnbull Government to criminalise the sharing of intimate images without consent.

A number of Labor MPs have prosecuted this issue over the years, in particular: Terri Butler MP, Tim Watts MP, Clare O'Neil MP and Mark Dreyfus QC MP.

The constructive and bipartisan approach of the Attorney-General, Christian Porter MP and the Shadow Attorney-General, Mark Dreyfus MP QC also deserves acknowledgement.

Labor pays tribute to the efforts of a range of stakeholders in the community. We hope today's progress brings the victims of image-based abuse some comfort as they see the results of their advocacy, and know they have helped protect their fellow Australians from this serious form of abuse.

### **SILENCE ON THE DIN - Leigh**

**Director identification numbers are the most important reform required to crack down on illegal phoenix activity. Yet the Turnbull Government is still no closer to implementing them.** Minister Kelly O'Dwyer yesterday released draft phoenix legislation that did not include director identification numbers.

Labor has been calling for the introduction of director identification numbers for [15 months](#), with support from:

- Australian Institute of Company Directors
- Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman
- Productivity Commission
- Tax Justice Network
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Master Builders Australia
- Australian Council of Trade Unions
- Australian Restructuring Insolvency and Turnaround Association
- Phoenix Project, comprising experts from Melbourne University Law School and Monash University Business School
- Australian Institute of Credit Management



Director identification numbers have been cited as the single most effective measure to crack down on illegal phoenix activity. But the Turnbull Government hasn't clarified when and how they would implement them. While Labor's policy requires the same 100-point identity check that new bank account holders must go through, the Minister [wouldn't rule out biometrics](#) when asked about the proposal last year.

If we needed any proof that a director identification number was needed, it should have come with the news that [a Liberal backbencher](#) had multiple birthdays listed with the corporate watchdog.

## FIRST PEOPLE

### LEGACY OF TRAUMA FACED BY STOLEN GENERATIONS -Shorten/Burney/Dodson/McCarthy

Federal Labor welcomes [the report released today](#), *'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations and descendants: numbers, demographic characteristics and selected outcomes'*.

Collated by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), in partnership with The Healing Foundation, the report details the direct link between forced removal and the real-life symptoms of intergenerational trauma, which has rippled through the generations.

The comprehensive data paints a contemporary picture of the lived experience of Stolen Generation survivors. It details the alarming levels of chronic health issues and economic and social disadvantage.

But this is not the first report into the experience of the Stolen Generations. It comes twenty years after the historic Bringing Them Home Report, and there have been some 20 reports into their experience which they have bravely given evidence to.

After all the reports, what is still lacking is action, through compensation and policy response.

A Shorten Labor Government will respond to the legacy of pain and trauma that the Stolen Generations, their families and their communities continue to experience today.

A Shorten Labor Government will establish a Stolen Generations Compensation Scheme.



To each of the survivors removed from their families, country and culture we will offer an ex gratia payment of \$75,000. As well as a one-off payment of \$7000 to ensure the costs of their funeral are covered.

10 years on from the historic National Apology, this compensation is about resolving unfinished business. Of course, this was also a recommendation of the *Bringing them Home* report.

We recognise that regrettably, this fund comes too late for many members of the Stolen Generations – we acknowledge those who have not lived to see this justice delivered.

A Shorten Labor Government will also establish a \$10 million National Healing Fund to be administered by the Healing Foundation, for programs that assist

Stolen Generation members and their descendants, nation-wide.

Reflecting on the traumatic history of forced removal in Australia, we cannot neglect to recognise the unacceptably high rates of First Nations child removal today.

In recent years, the number of First Nations children removed from their families has risen rapidly. In 2017, more than 17,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were living in out-of-home care, compared with about 9,000 a decade ago.

To respond to these unacceptably high rates of out-of-home-care, a Shorten Labor Government will convene a national summit on First Nations Children in our first 100 days.

The summit will bring governments and experts together to determine the different factors that lead to child removal, work on solutions to reduce the rates of out-of-home care, and new approaches to building strong and stable First Nations families.

Federal Labor wishes to thank The Healing Foundation for their ongoing commitment to supporting Stolen Generations through a range of services such as counselling, family reunion, return to country, and support for elderly survivors.

Most importantly, Federal Labor wishes to acknowledge the over 17,000 members of the Stolen Generations who are still alive today, their families, and their communities who continue to demonstrate resilience in the face of perpetual injustice.



## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### MEETING WITH CAMBODIAN OPPOSITION MEMBERS - Wong



**Labor today met members of the Cambodian Opposition to discuss the suppression of democracy in Cambodia and the conduct of the recent election there.**

Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator Penny Wong was joined by Chris Bowen, Chris Hayes and Julian Hill at the meeting with Ms Monovithya Kem, daughter of Kem Sokha, the imprisoned leader of the now-disbanded Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) .

The meeting follows yesterday's Senate vote endorsing Labor's motion expressing serious concerns with Cambodia's 2018 national election.

The motion noted that the election process, which has included the dissolution of the CNRP, the detention of CNRP leader Kem Sokha, and the banning of CNRP parliamentarians and officials from engaging in politics for five years, reversed more than 25 years of progress towards democracy in

Cambodia.

Freedom of expression and association underpin democratic societies and Labor is concerned the election took place in an environment where not all political parties, civil society organisations and media could operate freely.

We are disappointed that the Cambodian people have been unable to freely choose their representatives.

The development of strong democratic practices and institutions — including a free press and civil society — is crucial to Cambodia's long-term prosperity.

As a longstanding friend of Cambodia, Australia must continue to urge the Cambodian Government to take steps to allow free and open political debate and participation without violence and intimidation.

We acknowledge the work of the Australian Cambodian community for its tireless advocacy in support of human rights and democracy in Cambodia and call on the Cambodian Government to immediately release Mr Kem Sokha.

When pressed on the impacts of his NEG for the Battery of the Nation project in Question Time, rather than being honest with the people of Tasmania, the Prime Minister bizarrely claimed the Battery of the Nation was all his idea to begin with.

Tasmanians know their Battery of the Nation vision isn't Malcolm Turnbull's; it's an idea that has a long history in Tasmania with strong support from many industry players including former Hydro Electric Commission Chairman Peter Rae. And it's an idea that only stacks up alongside a broader transition to renewable energy.

Labor understand the energy transition we need to ensure a clean, modern energy system, and we understand the huge potential that transition brings to Tasmania, in terms of jobs, clean and affordable energy and lower pollution.

It is a transition the divided, anti-renewable Coalition cannot and will not deliver.

Instead, Malcolm Turnbull's capitulation to the hard-right on energy policy means no Battery of the Nation, and higher power bills for Tasmanians.

## CITIZENSHIP



### FIRING UP DISCUSSION ABOUT AN AUSTRALIAN HEAD OF STATE - Thistlethwaite

**Australians will fire up discussion about choosing a local as our head of state when they fire up barbies across the nation as part of the "BBQ for an Australian head of state" campaign.**

On 1 September 2018, Wattle Day, proud Australians will be catching up in their communities to chew the fat about the push for an Aussie as Australia's head of state.

Today I helped launch the Australian Republic Movement's (ARM) national day of action campaign with the first of a series of BBQs to be held throughout Australia.

The ARM are encouraging people to come together and host a BBQ or other campaign activity to discuss with fellow Australians the importance of having an Australian as our head of state.

The time is right for Australians to begin discussing the importance of the change and the process to work and consult with the Australian public to deliver a successful amendment to our constitution through a referendum.

Australia's head of state should be a person that represents Australians above all other nations - someone we can all be proud of and our kids can aspire to be one day.

Since the 1999 referendum a lot has changed in our country. There is a new generation of Australians who could not vote at the time of the referendum 19 years ago and the ARM is working to educate these people about our Constitution and encourage them to support an Australian republic.

Labor has pledged to hold a vote on an Australian head of state during the first term of a Shorten Labor Government.

For the first time all our nation's political leaders are republicans. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition along with almost every State and Territory Premier or Chief Minister believe in and support amending our constitution to choose an Australian as our head of state.

We are at the perfect moment in time to get serious about working with the Australian people to agree on a process for amending our Constitution to finally choose one of our own as our head of state.

## RIP

*Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, has died of advanced pancreatic cancer at the age of 76. According to [the ABC](#), Franklin's publicist has confirmed she died Thursday at 9.50am (local time) at her home in Detroit surrounded by family and loved ones.*

*Franklin was a civil rights icon, became the first female performer inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987, and is perhaps best known for hits such as '(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman', 'Respect', 'I Say A Little Prayer', 'Chain of Fools' and 'Think'.*

*Aretha won 18 Grammy awards, had 21 No.1 Chart successes and was voted number one in Rolling Stone magazine's top 100 recording artists of all time*

*Her first recording contract was in 1960 so her career traversed ages of change that she married to her gospel roots. Her version that year of Respect, written by Otis Redding, became an anthem for the civil rights movement, which was reaching its zenith in the United States.*

*She sang at Martin Luther King's funeral and sang for President Obama Her family said;*

*"In one of the darkest moments of our lives, we are not able to find the appropriate words to express the pain in our heart. We have lost the matriarch and rock of our family. The love she had for her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins knew no bounds."*

*No better words could be penned than those by Mary J. Blige;*

*"You know a force from heaven. You know something that God made. And Aretha is a gift from God. When it comes to expressing yourself through song, there is no one who can touch her. She is the reason why women want to sing."*

*Excepts perhaps her own,*

*"What you want*

*Baby, I got it*

*What you need*

*Do you know I got it*

*All I'm askin'*

*Is for a little respect when you get home (just a little bit)*



Ready to shine brighter?

# Learning changes lives

1

## Host or attend an event

Hundreds of events promoting the benefits of lifelong learning are run across Australia during Adult Learners Week, such as open days, short courses, taster classes, professional development or adult learning programs. Organise your own ALW2018 event and invite everyone in your community.

2

## Post on social media

Share examples of the learning going on in your community or organisation. Promote your event or share a selfie on social media that shows you enjoying a new experience, gaining a new skill or learning something new. Remember, to use the hashtag #ALW2018.

3

## Inform your communities

Include news and contact information about ALW2018 in your regular communications with your community – whether it's on your website, in a newsletter, via social media or as part of your email updates.

4


## Spread the word


Talk about ALW2018 in the media. Issue a press release highlighting the events and activities that are taking place in your community, municipality or electorate. Encourage everyone to get involved. Use the resources and downloadables available on the ALW website.


**ADULT  
LEARNERS  
WEEK 2018**

1-8 SEPTEMBER

1300ILEARN 

[adultlearnersweek.org](http://adultlearnersweek.org) 

Adult Learners Week 

#ALW2018 



# Our Rainbow House Car Raffle 2018

## Win a 2018 Hyundai Tuscan SUV



**\$20 per ticket**



**Closing Date—Monday 5th November, 2018**

**Draw Date—Tuesday 6th November, 2018**

**Prize Winner will be contacted by Phone and Mail**

**Visit [www.ourrainbowhouse.org.au/car-raffle-2018/](http://www.ourrainbowhouse.org.au/car-raffle-2018/) for  
Terms and Conditions**

## Current Senate Inquiries

### Community Affairs Legislation Committee

- **New** [My Health Record system](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Cashless Debit Card Trial Expansion\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Maintaining Income Thresholds\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and related bills](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Encouraging Self-sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants\) Bill 2018](#)

### Community Affairs References Committee

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

### Economics Legislation Committee

- **New** [Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#); and [Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage \(Regulatory Levies\) Amendment Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Protecting Your Superannuation Package\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Space Activities Amendment \(Launches and Returns\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)

### Economics References Committee

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

### Education and Employment References Committee

- **New** [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](#)
- [Work health and safety of workers in the offshore petroleum industry](#)

### Environment and Communications References Committee

- **New** [Gaming micro-transactions for chance-based items](#)
- **New** [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](#)
- [Current and future impacts of climate change on housing, buildings and infrastructure](#)
- [Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities](#)

### Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

- **New** [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

- **New** [Unexplained Wealth Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Defence Amendment \(Call Out of the Australian Defence Force\) Bill 2018](#)
- **New** [Family Law Amendment \(Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties\) Bill 2018](#)
- **New** [Modern Slavery 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

- **New** [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](#)
- **New** [The practice of dowry and the incidence of dowry abuse in Australia](#)

#### Procedure Committee

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

#### Red Tape Committee

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

#### Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

- [Air Services Amendment Bill 2018](#)
- [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](#)
- [Regulatory requirements that impact on the safe use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, Unmanned Aerial Systems and associated systems.](#)

#### Select Committee into the Obesity Epidemic in Australia

- [Obesity Epidemic in Australia](#)

#### Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century

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

#### Select Committee on Electric Vehicles

- **New** [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](#)

