

Senator Claire Moore

WEEKLY UPDATE: 25th May, 2018

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THIS WEEK:

The government has now determined the date for the five Super Saturday by- elections around the nation. Surely, it is only a coincidence that the chosen date, Saturday 28th July, coincides with our Labor National Conference!

The explanation for a two month delay in providing the opportunity for electors in these five seats to make their choice for their representative ,as provided by the Australian Electoral Commission, is that there needs to be time to ensure that the new system around citizenship eligibility is bedded down and that there cannot be elections during school holidays.

June 30 was the first available satisfactory date so why we do we have to wait almost another month to franchise electors in those five seats?

This further clouds the real motives of the Government in choosing the end of July for these by-elections.

As the new system seems to be a new form, and there have been many elections during school holidays, as recently as Bennelong in NSW, there may well be other considerations which are not so transparent.

I think it is difficult to understand the difference between the needs for representation of people in Bennelong and Batman with those living in Longman, Perth, Fremantle, Mayo and Braddon.

The media has covered the reaction of Senator Penny Wong in Senate Estimates, as well as comments from Bill Shorten and Mark Butler this morning.

The Labor National Conference is a triennial event which determines the national policy platform after an extensive process of consultation with members across branches, states and unions.

As you all know Queensland is working through elections for delegates to this conference currently, as the dates for this year's conference have been widely published for many months.

National Executive will be meeting to decide an alternative date, as our focus in July will be supporting our candidates in the by elections.

We now have the timetable , however manipulated that has been and our local campaign is working to make sure that Susan Lamb will be returned in Longman ... please get involved in any way you can.

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 ...



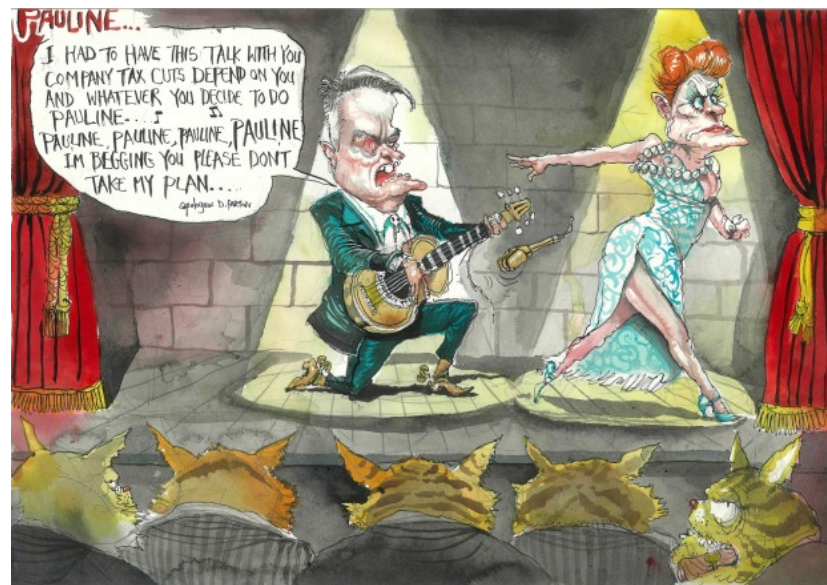
BY-ELECTIONS DATE - BUTLER- ABC TV NEWS BREAKFAST

"The usual thing would be for this by-election to be held on June 30th after all of the arrangements were put in place this week. The Electoral Commission made it clear in its written advice, to use its words, that it was "ready and able" to conduct the by-election on June 30th which would be about five weeks from now, the usual way in which these by-elections would be held. Presumably it could also conduct on July 7th, July 14th and July 21st, but instead, this government has very clearly targeted the date of the ALP National Conference to prevent the alternative government from being able to put together a policy platform for a federal election that could be called as early as August by Malcolm Turnbull. This is quite uncharted territory, I think, for Australian democracy."

BY-ELECTIONS DATE - PLIBERSEK- 2GB - THE ALAN JONES BREAKFAST SHOW

"Why would you put these electorates, first of all why would leave them unrepresented for so long, and secondly does anybody really living in these electorates want to face a 79 day campaign with people knocking on their doors and ringing them campaigning for all of that time. It's a very difficult to understand decision given that other electorates like North Sydney when there was a by-election, the writs were issued within three days, Bennelong within two days, New England the same day, Batman six days, and they were pretty speedy campaigns after that. This contrast sees people basically unrepresented for close to three months."

"We think this is red hot and there are questions to be answered" - Anthony Albanese



BY-ELECTIONS DATE - BUTLER - ABC RADIO ADELAIDE

"These elections could have been held on June 30th, the Electoral Commission made it very clear that it was ready and able to conduct the elections on the usual date, which would have been five weeks from today, five weeks from the arrangements being put in place. That is what has happened in by-elections in the past, including as recently as the Bennelong by-election which was held in December. It could have been June 30th, July 7th, July 14th, July 21st, but coincidentally we are expected to believe the government has fixed upon the date where the alternative government would be putting together its policy platform to take to a federal election that could be called as soon as August."

BY-ELECTIONS DATE - MARLES- ABC RADIO PM

"Now, this is a by-election or series of by-elections which are going to be held, I think, more than 70 days after the

last resignation of a member of parliament to the Speaker – more than 70 days. If the Prime Minister went to Yarralumla this afternoon we would have a general election for all 150 seats within 33 days, but this Government has found a way to have these by-elections for five seats in more than 70 days - by coincidence on the very same day as the ALP national conference. So, I think this lacks any credibility at all."

INTEGRITY COMMISSION - DREYFUS - ABC RADIO NATIONAL BREAKFAST

"We had thought late last year from statements by the Prime Minister and statements by Porter that they were looking favourably on the report of the Select Committee and there were bipartisan recommendations that the government investigate the setting up of the Integrity Commission. Those hopes have been dashed and that's extremely disappointing but it remains an absolutely firm commitment by Labor that if we are able to win government after the next election, we will establish a National Integrity Commission."

INFRASTRUCTURE FANTASY - ALBANESE - MEDIA RELEASE

"The Coalition has been cutting infrastructure investment in Australia for nearly five years while pretending otherwise. But Mr Turnbull's funny money plan for the Melbourne Rail Link sets a new benchmark in public policy fantasy."

NAIF - CLARE - MEDIA RELEASE

"The Government announced the NAIF three years ago this month and it still hasn't created a single job or invested a single dollar in Central or North Queensland. Now we know why. They spend more time on Facebook and shopping on eBay than they do investing in jobs. This year alone NAIF staff have accessed Facebook more than 15,000 times, and shopped on eBay more than 1,655 times."

NATIONAL GROWTH PLAN - CHALMERS - SKY NEWS AGENDA

"We've got an Australian Investment Guarantee, which gives tax relief to businesses who invest onshore. Contrast that with the \$80 billion gift that will spray around offshore and not create any jobs here in Australia. We've got a whole productivity agenda around human capital, physical capital, the adoption of technology; we've got an agenda right across the board. The difference between the parties is, they want to put all their eggs in one basket, which is an \$80 billion tax giveaway that will spray around in executive bonuses overseas and puffed up dividends and all of those sorts of things, versus our guarantee that investment will happen on shore. They vacated the field on human capital. They hollowed out TAFE, hollowed out uni, hollowed out schools."

MANUS & NAURU - DREYFUS - ABC RN DRIVE

"What we need is to end indefinite detention because that is what detention in Manus Island and Nauru has become. These places were set up as regional transit processing facilities and regrettably have become places of indefinite detention. It is almost five years, it will be five years in July since the Rudd Government set up the - and I was part of the Cabinet that made this decision - set up the facilities on Manus and Nauru and not in our wildest nightmares would we have imagined, did we imagine, that nearly five years on some of the people who were

transferred to Manus and Nauru would be still there. And that's because Scott Morrison and Peter Dutton have abjectly failed to work on third country resettlement. "

MANUS & NAURU - ALBANESE – ABC RN BREAKFAST

"You can be tough on people smugglers without being weak on humanity and these issues do need to be solved and it is up to the Government of the day to explain why it is that it has taken so long to resolve these issues"

MANUS & NAURU- BUTLER- ABC TV NEWS BREAKFAST

"There is a difference between the Labor Party and the Government though, and it is that those processing centres set up in Manus and Nauru were intended to be processing centres - not indefinite detention. Instead, what you have seen under Prime Minister Abbott and Turnbull is a neglect of the relationship between the UNHCR, the High Commission for Refugees, and no effort really to negotiate resettlement arrangements with other countries other than the US and a paltry effort with Cambodia. What you would see under Labor is a reinvigorated effort with the UNHCR and lots of energy put into ensuring those people are able to be resettled - not in Australia - but in third countries as soon as possible."

COALITION-ONE NATION DEAL - DREYFUS – ABC RN DRIVE

"Well we know they have delivered to One Nation's agenda with their attack on section 18C. That they've delivered to One Nation's demands in other respects, we wanted to know what else has been written into the budget that reflects this secret deal with Pauline Hanson's One Nation and it's pretty extraordinary for the Government of Australia to be doing these deals."

CLIVE PALMER'S BOOK - O'TOOLE – PH- CANBERRA

"I find it absolutely outrageous and quite frankly insulting to my community that I would receive a book, or two books in fact, from Clive Palmer, that have apparently cost around two hundred thousand to produce when I have people in my community, like Peter, who is still owed twenty-seven thousand dollars in entitlements, wage entitlements from the closure of QNI."

POWER PRICES IN NQ - O'TOOLE – PH- CANBERRA

"We certainly need to address the fact that we live in an area in this country where we have three hundred days of sunshine and we should be looking at alternative opportunities to generate energy so that our small businesses can survive. We are the highest insolvency city in the country and I speak to businesses every week, the number one issue for business around their operational costs is the cost of energy. So we must address this issue. "

COALITION WOMEN - O'NEILL – CANBERRA

"The Prime Minister decided to intervene in the preselection of one conservative woman. What was he doing when all of these other women – some of them very talented – were being challenged?"

FEDERAL POLICE CUTS - O'NEILL – CANBERRA

"We have a Prime Minister who says one thing in the Parliament, who talks at great length and with great passion about his concern for national security, but walks down the corridor to the Cabinet Room where he makes decisions which will see fewer police on the beat and less resources for the Australian Federal Police,"

"We have an organisation that's at the frontline of the crucial security issues facing our country, and they're telling us that they are facing 567 fewer staff in four years' time."

FEDERAL POLICE CUTS - ANGELA SMITH, PRESIDENT OF THE AFP ASSOCIATION – PARLIAMENT HOUSE CANBERRA

"The thing about policing is that it's about people. And money equals people. When you take away the money, you take away the people. And that's extraordinary for policing – the effect on that is that there's a morale issue. No one feels secure in the AFP anymore."

"Racist dog whistling has demonised and vilified a community that has everything to give to Australia - and the sacrifice of this human potential has been made solely for political gain," - Ged Kearney

"We've been here before with the government's attacks on Emma Alberici and the ABC. It's a replay of the Howard government's assault on the ABC over its Iraq war coverage in 2003/04. There's one key difference: the absence of the ABC chair from the debate." - Bernard Keane - Crikey

GLIMPSES

LOOK OUT!

Speaking at a Senate Estimates hearing ASIO Director, Duncan Lewis while careful to not name any particular nation, he repeated an earlier assessment that foreign interference activity against Australia was occurring "at unprecedented scale".



"Espionage, interference, sabotage and malicious insider activities can inflict catastrophic harm on our country's interests," Mr Lewis said on Thursday night.

"It undermines potentially our sovereignty, our security and our prosperity. Foreign actors covertly attempt to influence and shape the views of members of the Australian public, the Australian media and officials in the Australian government, as well as members of the diaspora communities here in Australia."

THEY REALLY SAID THAT? - Crikey

"This is a matter for the PNG Government." – Home Affairs

In responding to why the wife of a refugee who died by suicide on Manus Island was not notified by any government officials of his passing, and only found out after an advocate called to offer sympathies, Home Affairs [passes the buck](#)

Police on Manus Island have reported that a Rohingya man has died in an apparent suicide, becoming the seventh person sent there under Australia's offshore policies to die on the island. [The ABC reports](#) that the unnamed man jumped from a moving bus around 11am yesterday, and had been treated for both mental and physical conditions such as epilepsy since being detained in 2013.

DON'T FORGET –

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK: 27th May –3rd Jun

2018 marks 30 years since Galarrwuy Yunupingu AM and Wenten Rubuntja AM presented Prime Minister Bob Hawke with the Barunga Statement. The statement is a historic declaration of self-determination and the celebration of Aboriginal culture.

THEY DO THE CRIME – YOU DO THE TIME

The Commonwealth Bank this month wrote to members of its flagship superannuation fund Colonial First State, informing them they will be charged a "regulatory reform fee" Continued Page 6 of \$102.50 next month. Clients of other parts of its business, including Commonwealth Private, received a similar letter. The fee represents a significant rise on the previous regulatory reform fee capped at \$40 detailed in a Colonial First State investor brochure. While the other retail superannuation funds run by the big four banks are also passing on some of the costs of regulation, their fees are considerably less. Misconduct at the Commonwealth Bank's wealth management and insurance businesses is part of the reason the Hayne royal commission into the financial services sector was established.

The fee is on top of existing administration and investment fees.

A Commonwealth Bank spokesperson did not respond to questions for details but confirmed the \$102.50 figure and said the industry was investing billions in implementing reforms. "Every year we assess all regulatory reform expenses to ensure we can make the required changes and are only recovering from customers a portion of the costs incurred," the spokesperson said.

The idea that compliance with governance regulations is a 'cost of business' doesn't appear to have entered their heads.

MEANWHILE ...

Westpac allowed an almost blind disability pensioner suffering from cancer and osteoporosis to act as guarantor for her daughter's business loan without checking her personal situation or whether she was capable of making good her commitment if things went wrong, the financial services royal commission has heard.

When the loan went into default, Westpac moved to sell the woman's home which, had it gone ahead with the plan, would have left the severely disabled woman homeless.

The bank relented following intervention from Legal Aid NSW, allowing her to remain in the house for the rest of her life or until she decides to sell.

INTERESTING

Recently when the Liberal member for the seat of Ryan, Jane Prentice, was dis-endorsed party leaders said this was democracy and they weren't going to intervene.

Their performance in encouraging greater participation of women in their party and the world of politics makes their fine words on the subject mere cant and hypocrisy. They're a party whose federal representatives are only 22 per cent women.

And now, so too their fine words about democracy, rather than face the political embarrassment of losing another female member in the NSW seat of Gilmore, Ann Sudmalis, they've intervened to save her from the same fate that befell Prentice.

Ms Sudmalis had been facing a rout at the hands of branch members in her marginal south coast seat of Gilmore, which would have also seen the 62-yearold replaced with a younger man

Good luck to Ms Sudmalis but all this says of the Liberal Party is; no morality, no ethics just spin and bull....!

LONGMAN LIBERAL

Queensland Labor state secretary Julie-Ann Campbell said when Longman Liberal candidate ,Trevor Ruthenberg, the former LNP state MP for Kallangur, was an MP in the Newman government there were more than 700 nurse and midwife positions cut from the Metro North health region. "He even tried to hock the Kallangur school oval. He's got a track record of backing in local cuts to health and community groups," she said

MAKE ME GREAT AGAIN

Clive Palmer, that fool in a suit, is at again. Not only have Brisbane motorists had look at electronic billboard images of Palmer with the highly un-original slogan, 'Make Australia Great Again.' But he's also dropped a pile on a book! A 1200 glossy pages across two hardback volumes weighing in at a hefty 4.5 kilograms landed on the desks of MPs and Parliament House journalists yesterday, shipped from the Gold Coast by





Mr Palmer's company, Mineralogy. 'The Last Sentry at the Gate: Clive Palmer and the 44th Parliament of Australia' contains hundreds of colour photos of Mr Palmer in Parliament, in radio studios and on the campaign trail, along with transcripts of his speeches, media releases and private member's bills. One publisher estimated the cost of producing 20,000 copies of the book would be at least \$200,000, including design and editing. All the while, collapsed Queensland Nickel still owes creditors and former employees about \$300 million.

The PUP was bankrolled by Queensland Nickel money to the tune of \$21 million in two years. But Mr Palmer denied he wasted large sums of company money on a vanity project while hundreds of employees lost their jobs and creditors were hung out to dry.

NATS BAIL ON TAX CUTS



Maverick north Queensland MP George Christensen canvassed abandoning the corporate tax cuts at the Nationals party room meeting on Monday. He warned the package was unlikely to pass the Senate but would continue to inflict damage on the Nationals so long as the party stood by the policy.

Another Nationals MP said they believed the government should shelve the company cuts. "I wouldn't be comfortable taking this to the next election as a centrepiece of economic policy. We're getting beaten up on it," the MP said. "I think we do focus on the personal income tax cuts ... right now I don't think we're winning the fight."

BETTER ECONOMIC MANAGERS - David Uren - The Australian

The naval ship and submarine building program is the biggest industrial venture undertaken by an Australian government and already there are troubling signs, with Defence admitting to a potential \$6.9 billion blowout in the submarine program before the detailed design of the vessels has begun. Planners are still trying to refine the general concept. There is almost no public transparency over the budgets for this project.

The decision to build all 12 submarines in Australia along with the frigates and patrol boats was a political decision driven by the vulnerability of government seats in Adelaide. The claim there will be spin-off benefits for Australia's industrial base, with the investment fomenting the development of heavy engineering capacity and of a military export industry, has not been the subject of any economic modelling by Defence. Australia's only shipbuilder with an export track record, Austal, has won none of the work. **[At the same time the Turnbull government is doing nothing to stop the loss of 223 skilled ship building jobs in South Australia when all the experts are saying we will need over 5000 skilled ship building workers in the coming years - this is not just incompetence - it's an utter dereliction of duty to the nation- see more detail in the Infrastructure section in following pages- Ed]**

IMAGINE IF LABOR DID THIS ...

One of the largest environmental grants in Australian history was handed to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation - a non-profit that employs only a handful of staff - without a competitive tender process.

A week before the federal budget, the government announced it would give \$444 million to the foundation to "tackle crown-of-thorns starfish, reduce pollution into the reef and mitigate the impacts of climate change". But questions arose on Monday about whether the non-profit group, which lists only six full-time and four part-time employees with the charity regulator, would be capable of administering a grant worth more than 45 times its annual budget.

During Senate estimates hearings, Environment Department bureaucrats revealed there was no competitive tender process to determine who would be best placed to receive the record funds.

Instead, the foundation, which has described the windfall as like "winning the lotto", was chosen by the government without being asked if they wanted the money or how they would spend it.

GROW THE GAME - The New Daily



Cricket Australia (CA) must be one of the most arrogant and discredited sporting organisations in Australia at present. CA's decision to scrap an upcoming series against Bangladesh in the Top End last week did not attract the publicity it should have.

It was a mind-boggling decision and one that shows how little they value the game's developing world.

Following the ball-tampering fiasco, cricket needs all the good publicity it can get.

"The huge cost to play up there and getting broadcasters and what have you to pick it up, just makes it difficult," CA boss James Sutherland told ESPN Cricinfo.

According to Sutherland, the two-Test August tour would have struggled for media space, too, given the ongoing AFL and NRL seasons. An unknown quantity Down Under, the Bangladeshis would be difficult to sell to broadcasters, and it was therefore best to junk the tour, he said.

That is utter nonsense, though. The Bangladeshis aren't exactly cricket minnows. Last year,

they squared a two-Test series against the Australians in Bangladesh.

WHAT HAS SHE DONE?

The Turnbull government has lodged a second set of complaints to the ABC about its chief economics correspondent, Emma Alberici, this time over her reporting on innovation spending. But the public broadcaster has rejected the complaints following an internal review. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull sent a list of 11 grievances to the ABC on May 7 about a television story aired the previous evening about research and innovation spending. Communications Minister Mitch Fifield also complained to the ABC about the story.



LONGMAN STUNT



After assiduously supporting billions of dollars of corporate tax cuts and doing a secret deal with the Coalition, doubtless to do with preference allocations Pauline Hanson suddenly realised that this may not go down well with voters in the Longman by-election. So what does she do? It's another berko stunt – take the prime – get your image on TV - seat at the Banking Royal Commission. One click of the camera and she was gone.

IT'S A SMELLY BUSINESS

A former live export industry boss who falsified documents for a shipment of 22,000 Australian sheep that ended with many of the animals being brutally slaughtered in

Pakistan will not spend time behind bars, a Perth judge has ruled.

The 2012 shipment on the Ocean Drover had twice been rejected by Bahrain due to disease concerns but Garry Robinson's falsified paperwork prompted authorities to allow the animals to disembark in Pakistan.

The District Court of Western Australia heard Robinson, 46, was at the time a manager for Wellard Rural Exports, and instructed an employee to digitally change two documents to wrongly state the sheep had been vaccinated.

Defence counsel Sam Vandongen said his client was under enormous pressure to offload the sheep and his only options were to bring them back to Australia or cull them at sea, which would have been a horrendous task for the crew.

... AND WASN' OUR FAULT

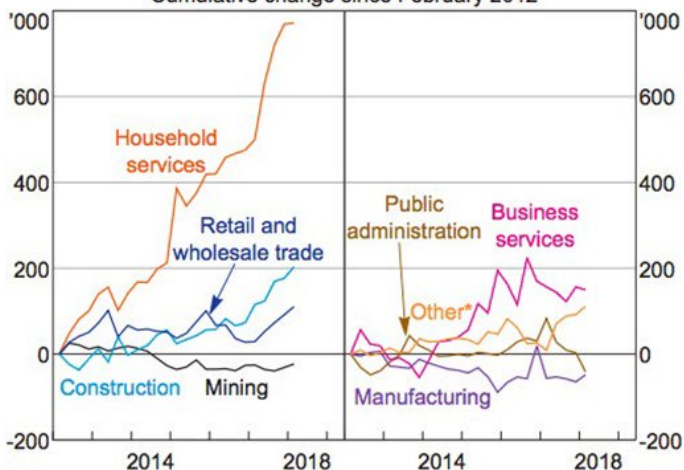
The deaths of 2400 sheep on a live export ship didn't breach the regulator's animal welfare standards because it was a heat stress event and therefore beyond anyone's control.

Testifying before a Senate Estimates hearing on Thursday, Agriculture Department live animal export branch head Narelle Clegg said there were no breaches found on the Emanuel Exports-chartered Awassi Express. Horrific footage emerged last month of sheep dying in their own filth on a Middle East-bound ship in August last year. On day 15 of the voyage, temperatures soared, killing 900 sheep. A further 1000 died in the two days that followed. Bur Labor senator Lisa Singh believed it showed more than that. "I think it shows the inadequacy of the department as an independent regulator,"



Employment Growth by Industry

Cumulative change since February 2012



* Includes agriculture, forestry & fishing; transport, postal & warehousing; and electricity, gas, water & waste services

Source: ABS

ARE YOU BEING SERVED?

The [Reserve Bank's latest chart pack](#) sums up better than any other graph how Australia is becoming a service economy; look at how rapidly household services have grown as a source of employment since 2012. The only "making things" job with any appreciable growth has been construction.

And even if we all suddenly became healthy and stopped ageing, that wouldn't halt the rise and rise of service jobs, according to [new Australian research](#). Accountancy courses, anyone?

CAPITALISM AT WORK

Optus will pay \$1.5 million in penalties after pressuring customers to move to the national broadband network sooner than required and misleading some customers about NBN service options.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in December launched federal court proceedings against Optus, alleging the telco told about 14,000 of its customers that their services would be

disconnected if they did not move to the NBN – but the timeframes were earlier than the telco was allowed to cancel the services.

The ACCC also alleged that Optus misled some of its customers about NBN purchasing options, by creating the impression that they were required to buy services from the telco when they could have chosen any internet service provider.

On Wednesday, the consumer watchdog said Optus had benefited by about \$750,000



as a result of the conduct, and said the Federal Court had ordered the telco to pay penalties of \$1.5 million for making misleading representations.

ACCC chairman Rod Sims said businesses should not make false representations which distort customers' decision making, particularly when many Australians are moving to the NBN for the first time.

"Optus pressured customers by misrepresenting the time period in which services could be disconnected," Mr Sims said in a statement on Wednesday. "Today's penalty serves as a warning to all businesses that such behaviour will be met with ACCC action."

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL



Businesses should be forced to pay their employees more in super rather than raising their take-home pay as an answer to the problem of flat wage growth, former Labor Prime Minister Paul Keating has argued.

In an opinion article in *The Australian Financial Review* on Wednesday, Mr Keating said persistently flat wage growth was becoming "deeply challenging" because a recent pick-up in labour productivity seemed to have made no difference to how much Australian workers were getting paid. Mr Keating, who was a long-time treasurer in the Hawke government before he became Prime Minister.

COP SHOCK

Lawyers have argued that a Victorian police officer was caught on camera punching a teenager, before the officer's partner demanded the footage be deleted and then, after arresting the teens, attempted to erase the footage himself.

The ABC reports that Simon Mareangareu and Dennis Gundrill are currently facing charges of unlawful imprisonment, attempting to pervert the course of justice, and perjury over the incident, with Mareangareu also charged with intentionally causing injury for allegedly punching 17-year-old Kyan Foster in Melbourne's east on Christmas Day 2014. Jury members watched footage of the alleged assault captured by 16-year-old Stuart Laird. Laird's phone had been taken and returned to him with the footage deleted, but Laird's father paid experts to recover the video. [It happens here too! -Ed]



LOST AND NEVER FOUND

The four-year search for Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 is about to end after the Malaysian government confirmed there would be no further extensions to the private firm undertaking the latest hunt for the missing plane. US-based Ocean Infinity has been searching for the aircraft that disappeared en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014, with 239 people on board including six Australians, in one of the world's greatest aviation mysteries. The private firm's contract will end next Tuesday and Malaysian transport minister Anthony Loke confirmed there will be no more extensions to the search.

FUTURE CROPS



Ones to watch – 26 high potential emerging industries:

Marron - crayfish - sheep milk - chestnuts - hazelnuts - jackfruit - pomegranate - flaxseed/linseed - hemp seed - eucalyptus oil - deer - silver perch - seaweed - red-claw crayfish - buffalo milk - camel milk - chillies - taro - cassava - prunes - rambutan - pitaya (dragon fruit) - black tea - chia - amaranth - mustard seed - lavender oil

Publications and resources agrifutures.com.au/emerging-industries agrifutures.com.au/farm-diversity

BYE, BYE AUSSIE PIE

The World Health Organisation, which is part of the United Nations, this week called on governments to eliminate all industrially produced trans-fatty acids globally by 2020 due to the increased risk of heart disease by 21 per cent and deaths by 28 per cent. Trans-fat – a type of unsaturated fat that is chemically altered (partially hydrogenated) to solidify at room temperature – is found in many processed or fried foods and baked goods found on supermarket shelves. These include pies, doughnuts, biscuits, crackers, potato chips, sausage rolls, bagels, pastries, chicken nuggets and popcorn.



LABOR'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE – Mark Butler

Today's by-elections announcement is a disgraceful indictment on the Turnbull Government – it stinks of interference by Turnbull with the independent electoral commission.

This delay will leave about 500,000 Australians unrepresented for nearly three months.

It appears to have been deliberately designed to disadvantage the Labor Party, given our National Conference is scheduled for that weekend.

Our National Conference is an important part of our policy process – and the fact the Liberal Party has deliberately sought to disrupt our democratic processes shows how desperate and pathetic they are.

We know our committed Labor activists will want to be out in the community campaigning for our fantastic candidates across the country – not sitting in a conference centre.

The National Executive will now consider the implications of today's decision for our Conference, and confirm arrangements in the near future.

MH 17 ATTACKERS MUST BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE - Shorten/Wong

Labor notes the conclusive finding from the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) that the missile that shot down Malaysian Airlines flight MH 17 over Ukraine in 2014 belonged to the Russian Federation's 53rd Anti-Aircraft Military Brigade.

We commend the professionalism and rigour in which the JIT has continued to pursue its painstaking investigations, despite Russian intransigence.

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



The finding confirms the pivotal role of Russian elements in the murder of 298 innocent people, including 38 Australians.

It reinforces the JIT's earlier findings that the BUK missile was taken from Russia to eastern Ukraine and back to Russia, and launched from an area controlled by pro-Russian fighters.

We have full confidence in the independence of the JIT and in its thorough investigation that includes members from Australia, as well as Belgium, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Ukraine.

It is now long past time for Russia to abandon its obstructionist approach and fully co-operate with international efforts to find justice for those killed in this senseless and criminal act.

We owe it to victims and their families to do everything possible to ensure those responsible for the downing of MH 17 are identified and brought to trial.

ELECTORAL REFORM

TURNBULL STAFF SWEETHEART DEALS - Farrell

Malcolm Turnbull continues to hide secret sweetheart deals used to top-up Liberal advisers' pay packets with millions of extra dollars of taxpayers' money.

While the rest of Australia battles through record low wage growth and the Liberals' attacks on penalty rates, staff in government offices are being paid above the rates relevant to their positions, without any justification being provided.

If the Liberals had legitimate reasons for paying staff extra then they should simply explain those reasons to the Australian people and the Parliament.

But in Senate Estimates yesterday, Finance Minister Mathias Cormann continued to dodge questions about who these staff are, which offices they work in and why they should be paid above their classification.

With insecure work, record low wages growth, and skyrocketing cost of living pressures, Australians are feeling the pinch.

Last week's WPI data revealed that Malcolm Turnbull continues to preside over annual wages growth of only 2.1 per cent, with private wages increasing only 1.9 per cent.

Turnbull and his Liberals have failed to acknowledge these challenges, let alone come up with any policy initiatives to deal with them.

Instead, they support cuts to wages through slashing penalty rates, argue against increasing the minimum wage, want to hand \$80 billion the top end of town and the big banks.

The only way to stop the Liberals splurge on big business, big banks and big bump-ups for their advisers is to vote Labor.

GO-SLOW GOVERNMENT MUST PRIORITISE FOREIGN DONATION REFORM - Farrell

Recent claims made under parliamentary privilege have again put political donations in the spotlight and highlighted the urgent need for reform.

But the Liberals continue to stall.

Labor takes the issue of foreign interference very seriously, which is why we announced in June 2017 that we would no longer accept foreign donations.

The Liberal Party should immediately rule out accepting any foreign donations and stop doing everything it can - including challenging Queensland's state electoral laws - to delay and avoid necessary reforms to Australia's political donations laws.

It has been 45 days since the release of the consensus report of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, which highlights the significant failings of the Government's *Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017*.

If the Liberals won't voluntarily stop accepting foreign donations, they must at the very least respond to the issues raised by JSCEM and announce a time-line for implementing this much needed reform.

Labor is proud to have continually fought for improved transparency and greater accountability.

We took a policy of significant donation reform to the last election and, in 2016, introduced legislation in the Parliament to deliver our plan, which will:

- Ban foreign donations;
- Require all donations over \$1000 to be disclosed;
- Ban donation splitting;
- Ban anonymous donations above \$50;
- Link public funding to campaign expenditure;
- Introduce new offences and increase penalties for breaches.

PORTER BACKTRACKS ON INTEGRITY COMMISSION - Dreyfus

After months of prevarication from the Coalition, Attorney-General Christian Porter has written to Labor and [formally refused](#) the offer of bipartisan support for the creation of a National Integrity Commission.

Despite a bipartisan select committee report to the contrary, Mr Porter has determined there is no "persuasive evidence" that there are gaps in the current system for tackling corruption at the federal level.



Labor does not agree. We believe the current system – despite many agencies doing important work – is fragmented and further coordination is worth pursuing.

That's why Bill Shorten announced in January, Labor will legislate for a National Integrity Commission, with all the powers of a standing Royal Commission, would be legislated within the first 12 months of a Labor government.

Mr Porter used to say that he was "not closed-minded" to the proposal – so what changed?

It is time for both parties to acknowledge that we have to do better, if we are to regain the trust of those we represent.

Labor is prepared to take the important steps towards that goal. It's disappointing that the government is not.

HEAD OF STATE DOUBTS DUE TO TURNBULL'S LACK OF LEADERSHIP - Thistlethwaite

New research shows most Australians don't know their Head of State, but their instinct tells them it should be an Australian.

The Essential Research polling of 1025 Australians shows 66 per cent of respondents incorrectly identified, or didn't know, our current Head of State.

Of those who think they do know, 30 per cent say the Governor-General is our Head of State, while 24 per cent say it's the Prime Minister. Only 12 per cent of Australians say they don't know.



This compares with just the 34 per cent who correctly identified the Queen of the United Kingdom – Elizabeth II – as Australia's current Head of State.

Australia is a constitutional monarchy with Queen Elizabeth as our sovereign Head of State. The Queen's royal style and title in Australia is – ['Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth'](#).

The latest polling, conducted during the week of the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, also shows nearly half of Australians support Australia becoming a republic with an Australian Head of State, while 22 per cent remain undecided.

Labor is pledging to consult with the Australian people about Constitutional reform and [plan for a national vote on an Australian Head of State](#) during the first term of a Shorten Labor government.

Once again, Labor is leading where the Liberals will not.

Malcolm Turnbull's losing leadership of the 'Yes' vote in 1999 republic referendum has left him shaken. He's no longer willing to fight for yet another one of the beliefs that he's abandoned - a

modern Constitution with an Australian Head of State.

To help achieve this, Commonwealth and State / Territory governments should develop and implement a national civics education program to engage the Australian people in our democratic processes and to improve understanding of the Australian Constitution.

Labor has also developed a plan to recognise the important contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Whether it's Indigenous recognition or an Australian republic, it's clear the Prime Minister prefers excuses for inaction rather than conviction

HEALTH

IMPROVING CANCER TREATMENT IN BRISBANE'S NORTH—Shorten/King/Lamb

Hundreds of people north of Brisbane will have better access to critical cancer treatment, with a Shorten Labor Government to invest \$10 million to establish a chemotherapy treatment service at Caboolture Hospital.

Labor's investment will see 360 patients receiving around 3700 treatments every year.

Currently people in the region have to travel significant distances to access critical chemotherapy treatment and bypass the Caboolture Hospital because the service isn't available.

For a cancer patient living on Bribie Island who needs chemotherapy, this will cut their travel time in half.

The region is the fastest growing in wider Brisbane – increasing by more than 50,000 by 2030, and cancer services are one of the highest volume hospital services in the region.

Turnbull's cuts will see every hospital in Queensland worse off – including a cut of \$2.91 million from Caboolture hospital in only three years.

Turnbull's cut to Caboolture hospital is the equivalent of 4,300 emergency department visits, more than 800 cataract extractions or 480 births. These are real cuts that will have an impact on the capacity of the hospital to meet future demands of the region.

In clear contrast – Labor is prioritising our hospitals because we know that nothing matters more than health.

Instead of giving big business an \$80 billion tax cut we are putting that money towards more hospital beds, getting people off elective surgery lists and making sure people get the treatment they need.

The July 28 by-election is a chance to send Turnbull a clear message that his choice to help big business and hurt our local hospitals is unfair and out-of-touch.

A vote for Labor and Susan Lamb is a vote to give our region the health care they need and deserve.

ECONOMY

SLOMO'S SECRET ONE NATION DEAL UNRAVELS: PLEASE EXPLAIN?! - Bowen

The Turnbull Government has today been exposed over an attempted Budget "secret deal" with Pauline Hanson's One Nation.

Scott Morrison and Mathias Cormann need to release full details of this secret deal today for the Australian people to understand and scrutinise.

It's bad enough that the Prime Minister continues to refuse to release the terms of the Coalition agreement, but today's reports suggest the Government was prepared to do a secret deal with minor party One Nation with multi-billion dollar implications for the resources sector.

The resources sector should be incredibly concerned that the Turnbull Government was happy to use the future of their industry as a pawn in a secret deal with One Nation.

We understand Scott Morrison struggles with economics but didn't realise he'd got so desperate he'd asked Pauline Hanson to write parts of the Budget.

The Turnbull Government initially pretended that One Nation support was contingent on a modest apprenticeship package, but refused to provide the further details [The Australian](#) is reporting today.

Mr Morrison needs to explain whether this secret deal has anything to do with the [secret tax increase](#) in the 'Decisions taken but not yet announced' section of the Budget [Budget Paper 2, page 6].

Not only is Scott Morrison refusing to be upfront on the year-on-year impacts of its \$140 billion income tax package, but it's failing to give any details on a secret \$3 billion net tax hike plan buried in the Budget papers.

MALCOLM IN A MUDDLE ON INCOME TAX CUTS – Bowen

Malcolm Turnbull either misled or experienced amnesia in Parliament today during Question Time, pretending he hadn't voted against Labor's Tax Refund for Working Australians that would give bigger, better and fairer income tax cut to 10 million Australians.

CHRIS BOWEN: My question is to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and his Government claim they support lower taxes so why did the Prime Minister, his Ministers and every member of the backbench vote against Labor's plan for lower personal income taxes for 10 million Australians, a tax cut of up to \$928 a year last night? That's what they did. How can the Australian people believe anything this Prime Minister says when last night, he voted against bigger tax cuts?

MALCOLM TURNBULL: Mr Speaker, Mr Speaker, Mr Speaker, the only tax reform that was voted for last night was the government's reform for personal income tax.

WRONG.

The Prime Minister should check [Votes and Proceedings](#) from the House of Representatives yesterday where registered a vote against Labor's fairer income tax cut amendments.

There's no doubt the Turnbull Government voted against Labor's amendments to the income tax legislation that would have delivered bigger, better and fairer income tax cut to 10 million Australians.

The Liberal Party is all talk when it comes to delivering proper income tax relief for working and middle income Australians.

Under Labor's plan, everyone earning less than \$125,000 a year will receive a bigger tax cut compared to the Liberals.

TURNBULL WON'T TACKLE TAX HAVENS - Leigh

The taskforce which has clawed back millions of dollars hidden away in the Cayman Islands and other tax havens is losing its funding.

The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions today confirmed in Senate Estimates that the Turnbull Government will end funding for the Serious Financial Crime Taskforce from July 2019.

Tax cheats must be popping the champagne at this announcement.

Just two months ago, the Minister for Revenue and Financial Services praised the Serious Financial Crime Taskforce for uncovering "Australia's biggest tax fraud", which involved the Cayman Islands.

Malcolm Turnbull, who was personally named in the Panama Papers, is failing Australians on tax havens. The Liberals won't close major tax loopholes. Since coming to office, the Liberals have cut over 4000 staff from the Australian Tax Office.

Tax havens hold over \$7 trillion of the world's financial wealth, costing the global economy at least \$200 billion in lost taxes every year.

As Tax Commissioner Chris Jordan has noted of recent tax dodging activities: **'Many of these matters involve deliberate tax evasion, often using overseas tax havens or complex corporate structures to avoid detection and recovery.'**

Labor will [continue our fight to crack down on tax avoidance](#), and create a fairer tax system.

LIBERAL PARTY VOTES AGAINST BIGGER, BETTER AND FAIRER TAX CUTS - Bowen

The Turnbull Government tonight voted against giving 10 million Australians more money in their pockets through bigger, better and fairer income cuts

Labor's *Tax Refund for Working Australians* means everyone earning less than \$125,000 a year will receive a bigger tax cut under Labor compared to the Liberals. More than four million people will be better off by \$398 a year compared to the Liberals.

This vote highlights that Turnbull's pursuit of \$80 billion in tax cuts for big business is coming at the expense of family budgets. The Turnbull Government continues to hurt working Australians who are struggling with sustained low wages growth.

Labor tonight voted to deliver bigger, better and fairer tax cuts for 10 million working Australians. The Liberal Party opposed that.

Labor tonight voted to split the Government's legislation and separate out the tax cuts that occur over the next four years from those that occur in 2022 and 2024. The Liberal Party opposed that.

Labor tonight urged the Turnbull Government, again, to provide year-on-year costs over the medium-term of the seven year tax cut plan. The Liberal Party refused to release it.

Scott Morrison at the eleventh hour provided some information on the different stages of the plan, including:

- The Low and Middle Income Tax offset (LMITO) costs \$11.650 billion over the forward estimates and \$15.9 billion over the medium-term;
- Increasing the tax threshold at \$87,000 to \$90,000 costs \$1.75 billion over the forward estimates and \$6.45 billion over the medium-term;
- Steps 1 and 2 of the Personal Income Tax Cut Plan will together cost \$102.350 billion out of the total package cost of \$143.950 billion over the medium-term
- This information means that stage three of the income tax cuts is around **\$40 billion**

The Treasurer still refuses to provide the year-on-year costs of this package over the medium-term. We know the information exists, because the Treasurer has provided tonight for the first time, a total medium-term cost of the package.

Labor has successfully moved for the legislation to be referred to a Senate Economics Legislation Committee where we will properly explore the distributional and financial impacts of the package with Treasury and key stakeholders and economists.

Labor has also tabled a set of questions on these income tax cuts for Treasury to come prepared to Senate Estimates next week on.

INFRASTRUCTURE

SENATE HEARINGS DEMOLISH BUDGET INFRASTRUCTURE SPIN -Albanese

Testimony by Government officials at Senate Budget Estimates hearings has shredded Malcolm Turnbull's deceitful spin concerning infrastructure investment in Budget 2018.



Despite the Prime Minister's best attempts to deceive people into believing he has increased investment on railways and roads, two days of hearings have established that the Budget did not include a dollar of new money for infrastructure.

Indeed, Commonwealth grant funding for infrastructure will decline from the promised \$8 billion in 2017-18 to \$4.5 billion by 2021-22.

All new projects announced in the Budget will be funded with money that was already in the Budget.

However, the delivery of these projects has been pushed off into the Never-Never, with only 15 per cent to be invested over the next four years. That means 85 per cent of the funding won't be spent before the next election or the election after that.

If Mr Turnbull was serious about nation building, he would be building new railways and roads to boost productivity and drive economic and jobs growth.

Instead, he is attempting to build a case for re-election based on deception and spin because he has no infrastructure record to defend.

Other key facts established by the Senate Estimates hearings:

- Annual Federal infrastructure investment in New South Wales will decline by 70 per cent over the next four years.
- Annual Federal infrastructure investment in Western Australia will decline by two-thirds over the next four years.
- Annual Federal infrastructure investment in South Australia will decline by 80 per cent over the next three years.
- Annual Federal infrastructure investment in the Northern Territory will decline by 80 per cent over the next four years of media release

TURNBULL'S FUNNY MONEY FANTASY ON MELBOURNE AIRPORT RAIL- Albanese

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull today refused to respond to serious concerns about the efficacy of his plan to build a train line from the Melbourne CBD to the city's airport without actually spending any money.

Prior to the delivery of Budget 2018, Mr Turnbull attracted widespread media attention by vowing he would invest \$5 billion in the Melbourne Airport Rail project.

But the Budget included no funding for construction, with Mr Turnbull claiming the rail line could be delivered off-budget via an equity injection.

It is a basic principle of budgeting that for projects to be taken off-budget, they must be able to produce a return to the Budget to cover both the cost of their construction and their operating costs.

While equity funding can deliver some projects, it does not work for public transport. While public transport boosts economic productivity, passenger trains do not produce commercial returns.

This is why a range of experts have questioned Mr Turnbull's approach. For example, the Grattan Institute has warned: "If infrastructure projects are never going to make a commercial return, the government should stop pretending they will."

Today in Question Time I asked Mr Turnbull to respond to these concerns.

He defended the equity funding proposal.

The Coalition has been cutting infrastructure investment in Australia for nearly five years while pretending otherwise.

But Mr Turnbull's funny money plan for the Melbourne Rail Link sets a new benchmark in public policy fantasy. The Prime Minister must explain how he intends to fund his \$5 billion Melbourne Rail investment. If he continues to maintain his sham funding proposal, Australians are entitled to conclude the rail line to the airport will never be built.

LABOR WELCOMES AUDIT OFFICE NAIF INVESTIGATION - Clare

Labor welcomes news that the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) will investigate the governance and transparency of the \$5 billion Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF).



The Government announced the NAIF three years ago this month and it still hasn't created a single job or invested a single dollar in Central or North Queensland.

Now we know why. They spend more time on Facebook and shopping on eBay than they do investing in jobs.

This year alone NAIF staff have accessed Facebook more than 15,000 times, and shopped on eBay more than 1,655 times.

- Labor requested this investigation last year after serious concerns about the NAIF's governance were raised. This includes issues like:
- Failure to create jobs and invest in infrastructure,
- Unexplained conflicts of interest held by NAIF board members,
- Issues with a lack of transparency and a refusal to respond to FOIs,
- Poor governance measures,

- Only a third of NAIF staff are actually based in Northern Australia.

The Auditor General is accepting public contributions until Tuesday, 31 July 2018 and will finalise his report by December 2018.

Labor wants to see the NAIF succeed. We want investment in infrastructure and we want jobs for Northern Australia. We hope this investigation can help deliver a more productive NAIF.

GOVERNMENT TURNS BLIND EYE TO CONFLICT OF INTEREST - Jones/Watt

Questions need to be answered around the Turnbull Government's Regional Jobs and Investment Package (Tropical North Queensland) and the Government's lack of action in investigating potential conflicts of interest.

In March, [the Cairns Post revealed a potential conflict of interest involving a \\$2.4 million grant under the Tropical North Queensland RJIP, the Member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch, and his former campaign director.](#)

In Senate Estimates, this week, it was revealed that even after significant media coverage; neither the Minister for Regional Development nor the Department for Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities appear to have sought probity advice on the awarding of this \$2.4 million grant.

It is a neglect of public accountability and governance requirements that neither the Minister nor the Department considered the issues raised important enough to investigate the matter.

John McVeigh, Warren Entsch and the Government might think there's nothing to see here, but Far North Queenslanders see it differently.

The lack of answers provided to the Estimates Committee last night creates even less confidence around the handling of this issue.

The Minister for Regional Development must provide a detailed explanation as to how the conflict of interest was managed and whether he has full confidence in the process undertaken to award RJIP grants in Tropical North Queensland.

THE LIBERALS CAN STILL STOP ASC JOB LOSSES - Marles/Carr/Kelly

In Senate Estimates this week the Liberals admitted that they chose not to save 223 shipbuilding jobs at ASC, despite having the means to do so.

In December last year ASC was awarded nearly \$30 million over three years for training scholarships, ***but this money has not been drawn down. No workers have been offered retraining or redeployment.***

This has happened while ASC's order books are full ***and the industry will need 5000 highly skilled shipbuilders in the coming years.***

The Liberals also admitted that no cost benefit analysis has been done on the impact of keeping the workers employed compared to letting them go.

The Australian National Audit Office's report on *Naval Construction Programs*, released last week stated that Defence repeatedly warned the government that these shipbuilding programs "carry high to extreme risk".

The report laid bare the incompetence of the Liberals' management of the \$89 billion Naval Shipbuilding Plan, and today's revelations at Estimates confirm that judgment yet again.

Just last December the Liberals promised that the valley of death was over and that the upturn in shipbuilding employment would continue with 200 jobs secured.

For all the promises and plans, this is the Liberals' legacy – job cuts after job cuts after job cuts.

A competent government would have seen this coming.

A caring government would have stepped up and prevented the loss of a fifth of ASC's shipbuilding workforce. The only jobs the Liberals care about are their own.

MINISTER NEEDS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUBMARINES – Marles/Kelly

The announcement by Naval Group Australia that they will appoint their third CEO in 18 months leaves the Government with questions to answer about how they are managing the biggest procurement in Australia's history

- Firstly, what is going on?
- Why is Naval Group Australia onto its third CEO in 18 months?
- Will the project now be driven from Adelaide or Paris?
- How will this affect negotiations for a Strategic Partnership Agreement which is already six months overdue?
- What are the implications for any further delay in these negotiations?
- What will the proportion of Australian content be on the first three submarines?

The Government is spending \$50 billion on the Future Submarine program. Whether the program goes well or badly will determine our strategic and industrial future. The Minister needs to answer these critical questions immediately.

LITTLEPROUD CANNOT BLAME NETWORK OPERATORS FOR GOVT'S FAILURES - Jones

Mobile Network Operators have called into question comments made by the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, David Littleproud, after the Minister laid the blame squarely with industry for the Government's lack of new funding for mobile black spots in the Federal Budget.

The Minister said that ["CEOs admitted to me that they don't see any viability in them going into another round... they don't want to come and put their money on the table."](#)

Yet, it has been revealed all three MNOs are supportive of continuing the program, with Vodafone explicitly refuting the Minister's claim. **[Communications Day, 21 May 2018]**

The Government's regional MPs must accept it was the Government's decision to abandon further rounds of the program and stop blaming Mobile Network Operators.

The message regional Australians can take away from the Federal Budget is that it's all gotten too hard for the Liberal and National parties who appear to have given up on improving outcomes in regional communications.

It's clear that with over 10,000 locations on the national mobile black spot register, the job is not yet done. The Government cannot blame others for their own failures.

COALITION'S DECENTRALISATION POLICY A COMPLETE FIZZER -Jones

The Turnbull Government's decentralisation policy has been exposed as a complete farce in Senate Estimates, this week.

When asked to itemise the locations that would benefit from the Government's Budget decentralisation announcements, it was revealed that over 80 per cent of jobs will move from one capital city to another.

Of the 98 jobs earmarked for relocation, 82 will go to one of Australia's capital cities, including:

- 40 jobs to relocate from Canberra to Adelaide
- 25 jobs to relocate the 20 kms from Sydney to Parramatta
- 10 jobs to relocate from Canberra to Darwin

Only 16 of the 98 jobs earmarked for decentralisation will go to a non-capital city.

Senate Estimates also revealed that little progress had been made on Departments' presenting business cases to relocate roles to regional Australia, despite the deadline of December 2017.

It's time for the Coalition to admit to regional communities its decentralisation policy is nothing more than a complete fizzer.

FAILED APPRENTICE IT ROUNDS OUT THE DIGITAL DIRTY DOZEN – Husic/Cameron

The Turnbull Government's key digital agency has admitted a failed digital project had been placed on a special watch list - and this still couldn't save the project.

Just last week, the government finally pulled the plug on its beleaguered Australian Apprentice Management System (AAMS).

For twelve months the Opposition has questioned the way the entire project has been managed.

For twelve months the Government stonewalled, insisting there was nothing wrong.

And then late Friday it announced it was shutting down the project.

Appearing before Senate Estimates last night, the Digital Transformation Agency was unable to explain what steps it had taken to rescue the AAMS.

Taxpayers have now seen \$20 million lost because of what an external review described as "systemic project weaknesses".

This incident casts new doubt on the way digital projects are supervised - and whether billions of taxpayer dollars on IT projects are being properly protected.

The failed apprenticeship IT system now rounds out the "dirty dozen" of government digital transformation failures:

2. The phenomenal fail of its [2016 Census](#)
3. Repeated crashes of the [ATO website](#): more than 12 over 12 months
4. Delayed revamp of the [Child Support Agency website](#)
5. Halted the start of [Online NAPLAN](#) testing
6. [Guillotined its GOV.AU redesign proposal](#), wasting nearly \$1m
7. Shut its [Digital Transformation Office, then renamed it](#)
8. Waved goodbye to its [DTO CEO](#)
9. Scored small business thumbs down for [overhyped Digital Marketplace](#)
10. Witnessed the [arrest of DHS IT contractors for suspected fraud](#)
11. Notched up a record spend on [government IT](#)
12. And who can forget...[RoboDebt?](#)

The digital dirty dozen proves that the Turnbull government is too internally divided and chaotic to deliver the most basic of government services.

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

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

YET ANOTHER REPORT SHOWS THAT GOVT HOPELESS ON HOUSING - Cameron

The gap between those doing it tough and struggling to find adequate housing and wealthy investors using unfair and unsustainable tax breaks such as negative gearing and capital gains tax discounts continues to increase.

The Turnbull Government is pushing ahead with its \$80 billion handout to Australia's biggest businesses, including banks and multi-national corporations while it ignores the plight of Australians experiencing rental stress and increased poverty.

A new [report](#) out today on the results of a survey conducted by the Salvation Army shows that many people who access the Salvation Army's Emergency Relief services are experiencing housing stress.

The figures speak for themselves:

- **81% of respondents who are privately renting or paying a mortgage are living under extreme housing stress, paying more than half of their income towards housing.**
- **Households with children are worse off with more than 90% under extreme housing stress.**
- **11% of respondents were homeless or living in temporary accommodation.**

While Malcolm Turnbull and his ministers have been trying to do political deals with Pauline Hanson's One Nation to deliver tax cuts to big businesses and banks, more and more Australians are falling below the poverty line and struggling to put a roof over their family's head.

Malcolm Turnbull's recent budget failed the test when it came to taking action that will help to manage the housing affordability crisis and growing homelessness in Australia.

Instead of helping vulnerable Australians to get a secure roof over their heads, he doubled down on his commitment to gift \$80 billion to big business and the banks.

This sums up exactly what Malcolm Turnbull and his government are all about.

The Salvation Army report is deeply concerning, however the personal stories of people living off such a small amount of money are heartbreaking and can't continue to be ignored by this government.

Labor has a plan to improve housing affordability, reduce the number of Australians who are homeless and put the issue of housing affordability seriously back on the national agenda.

We urge the Government to look closely at this report and stop dishing up empty rhetoric and instead serve up policies that will help to close the inequality gap. **Read More:** <https://salvos.org.au/about-us/latest-news/media-newsroom/its-time-to-kick-start-newstart/>

THE LAW

SERIOUS FINANCIAL CRIME TASKFORCE ABOLISHED – Dreyfus/O'Neill

The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions has confirmed that the government will end funding for the Serious Financial Crime Taskforce from July next year – right after the expected completion of the Banking Royal Commission.

This is extraordinary.

The Banking Royal Commission – which the government resisted for more than a year – has uncovered serious misconduct and potential criminal conduct in the financial services sector. It is expected that a number of recommendations for prosecution will emerge from the Royal Commission's final report.

That's why Labor announced a \$25 million boost to the Commonwealth Prosecutor in our Budget Reply – because we need to make sure corporate criminals are brought to justice and the prosecutor has the resources to do so.

It is astonishing that the government sees fit to abolish the Serious Financial Crime Taskforce just when it may be needed the most.

The Taskforce, which was a coalition of the CDPP, AFP, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, and other agencies, had a broad remit to target the most serious financial crimes.

Just two months ago, the government boasted of its work in smashing "Australia's biggest tax fraud". The CDPP confirmed just today that the Taskforce has 22 ongoing matters.

This revelation comes on top of confirmation that the government is cutting a staggering \$205 million from the Australian Federal Police and \$26 million from ASIC over the forwards, and 4,000 staff from the Australian Taxation Office since the Abbott government came to office.

The government has chosen to prioritise \$80 billion in tax cuts for the big banks over combatting serious financial crime and saving the jobs of our police and enforcement agencies.

This is a government which is staggeringly out of touch and has its priorities all wrong.

TURNBULL TO CUT OVER 500 AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE STAFF – O'Neill

Damning evidence at Senate Estimates has exposed the impact of Malcolm Turnbull's savage cuts to Australian Federal Police.

At this week's hearing, AFP Commissioner Andrew Colvin confirmed there would be a \$205 million cut to resourcing for the AFP over the forward estimates.

The Commissioner confirmed that the AFP's work to tackle fraud, organised crime and anti-narcotics are the areas that would be most affected by these cuts.

The Commissioner also 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. The AFP Commissioner today gave evidence that referrals of drug matters have risen by nearly 300 percent in three years and that victim-based crime matters have risen 200 percent.

Instead of supporting our dedicated AFP officers to perform their critically important work, Malcolm Turnbull has chosen to cut AFP funding and slash staff.

Malcolm Turnbull must immediately justify why he believes more than 500 AFP personnel should lose their jobs while he gives away \$80 billion to big business, including \$17 billion to the big banks.

IS CASH UNDER AFP INVESTIGATION? – O'Connor

It is now seven months since the Turnbull Government's politicisation of regulatory agencies was sensationally exposed by a leak to the media of the Registered Organisation Commission raid on the AWU. It is seven months since Minister Cash misled the Senate five times by falsely denying that her office was the source of the leak. It is seven months since the AFP launched a criminal investigation into the leak.

Yet, Minister Cash is still hiding from scrutiny-

In Senate Estimates today, AFP Commissioner Andrew Colvin confirmed it is normal practice for the AFP to speak to anyone who has relevant information to an investigation. However, the AFP did not disclose whether it has interviewed Minister Cash.

Considering Minister Cash received a confession from her former staff member, it is clear that if the AFP hasn't sought to interview Minister Cash it would be out of the ordinary. The Minister must now answer whether such a request has been made and whether she has cooperated with the investigation.

It is in the public interest to know if the AFP is investigating the Minister's and her office's role in the leak and Senator Cash should come clean.

For months now the Minister has been missing in action, avoiding scrutiny.

This is a Minister with no standing or authority. Despite misleading the Senate five times by falsely claiming her office did not leak the ROC raids, she has since refused to explain the conduct of her office and abuse of Ministerial power by hiding behind claims of public interest immunity, hiding from the media and failing to turn up to Estimates today, despite being named on the official program.

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



WORKERS

GOVERNMENT FAILS ON SECURITY OF PAYMENTS PROMISE TO XENOPHON –O'Connor

The Turnbull Government's complete disinterest in ensuring that construction industry sub-contractors are paid in full and in time for the work they do has been revealed yet again by its tepid response to the Murray Review Report.

The only reason the Turnbull Government agreed to review security of payments laws in the first place was to secure then Senator Xenophon's votes for the ABCC legislation, back in December 2016. Having done so, it commissioned a year long review to be undertaken by Mr John Murray.

In November 2016, Senator Xenophon claimed in the Senate that nothing "substantive" has been done in relation to security of payments laws since the 2004 Cole review. Those cross benchers that supported Senator Xenophon's amendments and who were on the same day promised by Minister Cash "meaningful reform" and "improved compliance", should be deeply unsatisfied.

All they have received is a yearlong review followed by a paltry response to it.

The Turnbull Government received the Murray Review report five months ago. Despite having had all that time to consider the recommendations, the Minister cannot even say whether he accepts any of them.

Almost 18 months after the ABCC legislation passed the Parliament, the Turnbull Government has done nothing to address security of payments, and shows no sign of moving to do so any time soon.

The Murray Review makes it clear that "It is time that this issue is dealt with at a national level in a cohesive and cooperative manner. We cannot afford to 'kick the can' any further down the road". (p318)

Yet, 'kick the can down the road' is basically what junior Minister Laundy has said he will do.

It is extraordinary that mere days after [reports](#) emerged that Pacific Highway subcontractors in NSW are owed \$7.3million because the head contractor engaged by the NSW Liberal Government has gone into liquidation, Minister Laundy shows no sign of understanding the urgency of acting to protect security of payments. As Mr Murray found, it is clear that a nationally consistent approach to security of payments laws is urgently needed. To achieve this, Australia needs a Federal Government 'prepared to take a leadership role in spearheading change and be a driving force to galvanise action' (p318). It is clear that this won't come while the Turnbull Government is in office.

WOMEN

THE LIBERALS: FIVE YEARS OF POLICIES THAT DISADVANTAGE WOMEN- Plibersek

Revelations from a Senate Estimates hearing this week show that after five years of supporting policies that disadvantage women, the Liberals are still failing to take real action to achieve gender equality.

Here's what we learnt last night:

- No analysis is being done on the impact of the Liberals' Budget on women.
- The Office for Women didn't know what the impact of the Liberals' tax policy would be on women. Analysis from [The Australia Institute shows](#) that men will get twice the benefits of the Liberals' proposed income tax cuts compared to women.
- The Liberals' much talked about 'women's economic statement' is still, in the Office for Women's words, 'in its extreme infancy.'
- The Minister for Women has repeatedly stated that the Liberals' policy to allow rollover of unused concessional cap superannuation contributions 'is particularly helpful for women.' But the Office for Women was unable to provide any evidence that this is the case. The Grattan Institute has said that 'the primary beneficiaries of these 'catch up' provisions are likely to be younger high-income earners, overwhelmingly men.'
- The current financial year is nearly over, but the Liberals still haven't used funding set aside to support the National Women's Alliances to work with disability advocacy groups and women with disability. A year has been wasted.
- More than two years after its release, work hasn't begun on key commitments from *Balancing the Future: The Australian Public Services Gender Equality Strategy* including a review of the *Maternity Services (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1973* to improve the flexibility and delivery of parental leave for public servants.

REPORTS ON SEXUAL ABUSE IN ADF DEEPLY CONCERNING – Marles/Rishworth

Reports in today's newspapers of sexual misconduct by members of the ADF are deeply concerning.



Sexual assault or abuse in any workforce should not be tolerated.

The overwhelming majority of men and women in the ADF serve our country with the pride and respect which is expected from our Defence Force and we can be proud of the work they do and the professionalism they show.

However, today's reports show some ADF members have failed to meet the standards of behaviour their colleagues and the community rightly expect.

The former Labor Government initiated the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce (DART) in response to reports of sexual misconduct.

As a result of the DART, there were eight recommendations, all of which Labor has supported.

One importantly included the role of the Defence Force Ombudsman and expanding this to include an abuse reporting function.

Labor is always willing to work with the government to ensure the safety of our defence personnel is a priority.

ENERGY POLICY

ENERGY DEPARTMENT CLUELESS ON NEG'S RENEWABLES IMPACT – Mark Butler

Today in a startling admission in Senate Estimates, Minister Frydenberg's Energy Department revealed they have done **no modelling or analysis** of what the Turnbull Government's 26 per cent low ambition National Energy Guarantee (NEG) will mean for renewable investment.

Labor Senator Anne Urquhart asked, "Has the Department conducted any modelling or analysis of the investment outlook for renewable energy under a 26 percent emissions reduction NEG policy?" The department answer: **"No, Senator."**

Senator Urquhart then asked, "Has the department provided the government with advice on the impacts of the 26 per cent target NEG on the renewable energy industry? The department answer: **"No we have not provided advice."**

Highly respected energy experts Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF), who the Department themselves called **"very credible"** have previously stated that "After 2020 when the current renewable energy target is met, investment under federal policies would likely fall off a cliff, because the national energy guarantee, as currently floated by the Federal Government, would require very little effort to achieve," Senator Urquhart asked if the Department shares these concerns of BNEF and whether the Department provided advice to the Government about the renewable energy investment impact of a low ambition NEG?

The Energy Department's incredible answer was: **"first bit unsure, second bit no."**

To be perfectly clear, the Turnbull Government's Energy Department is **"unsure"** whether the Turnbull Government's energy policy will cause renewable energy investment to **"fall off a cliff"**. Maybe yes, maybe no, who can tell?

Unlike Minister Frydenberg's Energy Department, the renewable energy industry does know. BNEF aren't alone, with other experts like Reputex, the Clean Energy Council, Energetics and the Smart Energy Council all recently warning about the impact of the Turnbull Government's low ambition NEG on renewable energy investment.

The former CEO of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, Oliver Yates has even said Prime Minister Turnbull's low ambition NEG *"is woeful, and it locks that inaction in place."*

Malcolm Turnbull continues to wage his war against renewable energy to appease the climate change dismissing hard right of his party room. Only Labor has a plan to grow the renewable energy sector, to deliver affordable, clean energy and create more jobs in the process.

NEW COAL DOESN'T STACK UP: SNOWY HYDRO – Mark Butler

In a long exchange with Senator Keneally about the viability of new coal-fired power stations in Senate Estimates, the CEO of Snowy Hydro, Paul Broad said:

"From our perspective (new coal) doesn't stack up."

"We will out-compete them (new coal) on price and on reliability."

"We can out-compete a new HELE plant."

And Snowy 2.0 only stacks up when more coal power exits the market, *"the amount of (coal) baseload that comes out of the market determines the viability of 2.0"*

But as reported today, former Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Chair of the Coalition's Environment and Energy Committee, Craig Kelly, will continue to pursue their new coal agenda.

In contrast, when asked by Senator Keneally if Snowy 2.0 will support a renewable generation share of 50 per cent or above by 2030, Mr Broad responded, *"of course it supports it."*

Mr Broad was clear that Snowy 2.0 only stacks up as we transition to *"a world that's different"* with a new clean, reliable and affordable renewable energy system.

It is fundamentally inconsistent for the Prime Minister to support Snowy 2.0 but have a National Energy Guarantee whose emissions reduction ambition will result in no large-scale renewables built for the entirety of the 2020s.

Only Labor has a consistent clean energy vision for Australia's energy future - one that supports large storage projects like Snowy 2.0, as well as supporting reliable, affordable and clean energy.

ENVIRONMENT

LABOR SUBMITS FOI OVER GREAT BARRIER REEF FUNDING - Burke

Federal Labor is making freedom of information requests into the Government's discussions regarding the funding to be provided to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

Senate Estimates has revealed that the Government's investment of an additional \$444 million to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation has been a chaotic process.



It is also not clear the extent to which the Great Barrier Reef Foundation was properly consulted and prepared for an increase in funding of this scale.

Despite this being the largest donation the Australian Government has ever provided, the Minister repeatedly confirmed during estimates that the Foundation did not submit an application, a competitive tender process was not followed and that the Department and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Association may not have been aware of the funding boost as recently as a week before the announcement.

It is not clear that the Foundation is even able to cope with a grant of this size – their previous revenue for 2015 and 2016 was \$9.6 million and \$8

million respectively.

The Government has not yet revealed to extent of what they knew and when they knew it, this should be made available through a Freedom of Information request.

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation is a reputable organisation with which Labor has had a good working relationship.

Labor is determined get to the bottom of why work of this scale which would ordinarily be overseen by the Department and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has been outsourced to this Foundation.

PROTECT THE REEF, TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE, INVEST IN RENEWABLES – Mark Butler

Australians want action on climate change and more investment in renewable energy.

WWF-Australia's latest [Backyard Barometer survey](#) shows that over two-thirds of people think that Australia should act on climate change and nearly nine in ten people (87 per cent of respondents) agree that Australia should invest in renewable energy, in the form of solar and wind.

Even though Australians want more investment in renewable energy, under Malcolm Turnbull's weak emissions reduction target of the National Energy Guarantee, there will be no large-scale investment in renewable energy for the entire decade of the 2020s.

And when it comes to protecting the Great Barrier Reef, Australians see coral bleaching (50 per cent) and climate change (47 per cent) as the top two threats to the Reef.

Australians and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority know that climate change is the biggest threat to the Great Barrier Reef. Yet the Turnbull Government's Budget saw not one measure to tackle climate change –not a single cent spent on new climate change policy anywhere in the Budget.

Australians recognise the Government needs to take action to tackle climate change but, under the out-of-touch Abbott-Turnbull governments, all we have seen is carbon pollution rising.

Only a Labor government will prioritise tacking action on climate change and encourage investment in renewable energy – 45 per cent cut in emissions by 2030 on 2005 levels, net zero emissions by 2050 and 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030.



THE REGIONAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION PORK BARREL - Fitzgibbon

It's just six short weeks until the Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) is scheduled to be functioning in Orange, but as yet it has no CEO and no staff.

The lagging progress has been revealed in Senate Estimates today:

SENATOR MALARDIRRI MCCARTHY: Has the board appointed an acting CEO for the RIC yet?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FARM SUPPORT DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES CAMERON HUTCHINSON:

The board hasn't yet appointed an acting CEO. That is a matter that is still being finalised Senator.

MCCARTHY: Why hasn't the board appointed one?

HUTCHINSON: It's a significant appointment and the board is working with the Government on the appointment of an acting CEO.

MCCARTHY: When will it be finalised?

HUTCHINSON: That's a matter for the Government and the board Senator.

MCCARTHY: You have no time frame?

HUTCHINSON: I can't offer you a time frame.

MCCARTHY: The Government hasn't provided any timeframe?

HUTCHINSON: No Senator I can't. I would expect it is to be done shortly or imminently but beyond that I can't offer you a specific timeframe Senator.

MCCARTHY: Is the Department confident that the RIC will be up and running or functioning by the first of July?

HUTCHINSON: Certainly the Government's expectation as set out in the Bill is that the Regional Investment Corporation will be up and running by one July.

No CEO, no staff and no idea when they will be appointed, or in fact when the positions will even be advertised. Yet the Department is adamant the RIC is on track for its 1 July operational deadline.

Meanwhile, the Department has conceded that to enable the pork barrel to have any chance of being functional in Orange, a team of 26 fulltime staff located within the Farm Support Division of the Department based in Canberra will be diverted from their usual work to prop up this struggling project.

Options have been explored to maintain these staff members currently working on the set up of the RIC for 'as long as necessary'. But as the Department admits,

HUTCHINSON: How long that occurs is a bit of an unknown at this point.

The RIC is another Barnaby Joyce boondoggle pork barrel established to deliver water infrastructure and farm business concessional loans, something that is currently being done via the States and Territories.

The RIC will cost \$28 million dollars and is to be established in Orange, a seat the NSW National Party lost last year having previously held for 69 years.

Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud must ensure proper transparency and accountability when it comes to the establishment of the RIC.

Farmers deserve better support and certainty when it comes to drought assistance. The fact is, this function could have been left as is and the \$28 million dollars being wasted on a pork barrel invested in proper drought reform.



LGBT+ RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

Andrew Leigh

Over the past half century, Australia has made significant progress. We have decriminalised homosexual acts between consenting adults. We have removed many forms of institutionalised discrimination against LGBT+ Australians. And we have belatedly legislated same-sex marriage.

There is more to be done in Australia, but there is much more to be done around the world. The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association's State-Sponsored Homophobia report found that as of May 2017, there are eight nations in which the death penalty is imposed as a punishment for same-sex consensual sexual acts. Across the globe, 72 states continue to criminalise same-sex consensual activity—that is, more than one-third of the world's nations.

The examples are chilling. This month, Malaysia released former politician Anwar Ibrahim, but continues to make sodomy illegal under section 377 of the Penal Code, which prohibits 'carnal intercourse against the order of nature'. In Bangladesh, Xulhaz Mannan, the founder of Bangladesh's first and only LGBT+ magazine, was brutally hacked to death as punishment for his activism. In Tunisia, Bouhdid Belhedi, a campaigner for LGBT+ rights, was assaulted by Islamic extremists and beaten by a mob outside his house in Tunis as a policeman watched.

In Ecuador, gay people are forced to undergo conversion therapy in secret clinics, where they are raped and beaten even though homosexuality is legal. Since the 2013 military intervention in Egypt, at least 250 LGBT+ people have been arrested. In Aceh, the Indonesian police this year arrested 12 transgender people. In Iran, gay men are sometimes hanged. In Russia, homophobic violence is on the rise. In Syria, there are media reports of LGBT+ individuals being thrown from tall buildings head first and then stoned by bystanders. And although homosexuality is legal in Turkey, it has one of the worst records of human rights violations against LGBT+ people in Europe.

Homosexuality is not a choice. Being transgender is not a lifestyle. Equality is indivisible. Human rights are universal. It doesn't matter whether you approach politics from the standpoint of freedom or from the standpoint of equality. As individuals, as civil society, as government, Australians must do more to stand up for LGBT+ rights around the globe.

This is a speech delivered in the Australian Parliament on 24 May, 2018, and printed as an opinion piece in [Star Observer](#) on 25 May, 2018.

LET'S DEVELOP PRIDE IN OUR CONSTITUTION – AND A BIT OF KNOWLEDGE

Matt Thistlethwaite

Around 4 million Australians tuned into the television coverage of the Royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle last Saturday night. It seems 21 million other Aussies had something better to do.

And yet the Monarchists argue that the Royal wedding highlights a growing level of local interest in the family firm with a monopoly on providing our Head of State.

The reality is different.

A recent survey found that most Australians are almost evenly divided in the belief that either the Prime Minister, Governor-General or Queen of the United Kingdom is our Head of State.

Of those who think they do know, 30 per cent say the Governor-General is our Head of State, while 24 per cent say it's the Prime Minister. Only 12 per cent of Australians admit that they don't know.

This compares with just the 34 per cent who correctly identified the Queen of the United Kingdom – Elizabeth II – as Australia's current Head of State.

The Queen's royal style and title in Australia is – 'Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth'.

She is a citizen of another nation; she does not live here and never has. She is not one of us.

We are one of the few nations in the world where the majority of citizens don't know who the figure head of the nation is. This is not something to be proud of. We have something better to do.

Our Head of State should be an Australian.

Our Head of State should be a person that we all know.

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.

There are many reasons for our nation's Head of State dilemma.

The document that establishes who our Head of State is, the Constitution, is irrelevant to most of us. It's an outdated document that reads like an 18th English Royal Charter. It has not been updated since 1977.

Our founding document does not even mention that we have the oldest continuing culture in the world and that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians have nurtured this land for tens of thousands of years.

The very first few paragraphs establish the Queen of the United Kingdom as our Head of State and us as her possessions. As it goes on it gets worse.

The drafters of our Constitution believed we would be courageous and wise enough to update the document as our country grew and developed and they even established a mechanism for us to achieve this in section 128.

But they made it difficult to ensure that Australians understood the nature of reform and what was involved.

The period of time between the last referendum and today is the longest Australia has gone without the Australian people being consulted about updating our Constitution – it's time for this to change.

The representatives of the people in the Parliament must provide more leadership on discussing our Constitution with Australians and what we need to work on changing to advance our nation.

The last time we had a serious discussion about the Constitution was in 1999. Since that time a new generation of Australians have matured to voting age. These young people would not recall the intense discussion and debate of the '99 republic referendum. Some of them were not even born. Consequently they have little understanding of who our Head of State is and the important role they perform.

There is a distinct lack of leadership from the Prime Minister and his government about Constitutional education and reform. The 1999 republic referendum has left Malcolm Turnbull permanently scarred and he is no longer willing to fight for his once strongly held belief- a modern Constitution with an Australian Head of State.

Whether it's Indigenous recognition or an Australian republic, the Prime Minister prefers excuses for inaction rather than conviction and inspiration.

Bill Shorten is leading where Turnbull will not, pledging to educate and consult the Australian people about Constitutional reform and developing a plan for a national vote on an Australian Head of State during the first term of a Shorten Labor government. Labor has also developed a plan to recognise the important contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Trait Islanders to our nation.

Leadership is the key to success in modernising our Constitution but it must be coupled with education people about the current system and the benefits of change.

To achieve this, Commonwealth and state and territory governments should develop and implement a national civics education program to enhance the engagement of the Australian public in democratic processes and to improve knowledge and understanding of the Australian Constitution. The public will not vote for a change they don't understand. The many referendum failures prove this.

With inspirational leadership and education we can work together to reform our Constitution and develop the confidence to select an Australian to be our Head of State - someone we all love, respect and know.



This piece was first published by [The Australian](#) as 'Our founders assumed we'd have the courage for change' on Wednesday, 23 May 2018

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

HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Dementia Australia and Palliative Care Australia have released a joint policy statement emphasising the importance of encouraging end-of-life care discussions as part of the support a person receives when diagnosed with dementia.

Dementia Australia CEO Maree McCabe said while many people, with good support, live well with dementia, we are encouraging people to engage in advance care planning conversations with their families and the health professionals involved in their care.

“Communicating their wishes in the early stages is critical to ensuring people living with dementia are empowered to exercise choice and control over the care and treatment they wish to receive at the end of life. Having open and informed conversations between key support people and the person living with dementia enables their wishes to be documented in an advance care plan to best ensure they receive appropriate, compassionate and timely palliative care, which includes pain relief and symptom management,” she said.

Palliative Care Australia CEO Liz Callaghan said having these discussions allows the opportunity for the person living with dementia to choose and prepare a substitute decision-maker, who may be required to make decisions when the person is no longer able to communicate their own preferences. “The unpredictable course of the disease often presents issues around capacity for decision making, difficulties in communication and lack of community understanding of the disease.

This results in many people living with dementia struggling to access appropriate palliative care and this is especially difficult for people from diverse backgrounds and those with behavioural symptoms of dementia,” she said.

PCA and Dementia Australia called for aged care and community based services to train staff to expand their awareness and understanding of palliative care and dementia.

“Comprehensive palliative care for people living with dementia, and appropriate support for carers, should be available when and where it is needed, including community or home-based care, residential aged care, hospice care, and acute care settings which requires building on the skills of health professionals, staff, families and the community to meet the specific needs of people living with dementia,” Ms McCabe said.

The key points in the statement recommend and advocate for improved awareness and understanding of the unique palliative care needs of people living with dementia, their families, carers and community.

- There must be early involvement of the person, where possible, and their family and carers, where appropriate, in decision making, identification of goals, and delivery of palliative care.
- A flexible model of care is required which enables health and care professionals to provide the right care, at the right time, and within the right setting to accommodate the changing needs of people living with dementia, and their carers, as the disease progresses.
- Improved access to specialist palliative care services in the community is needed to address the complex needs of dementia and to enable greater choice in the type of care that is provided.
- Health and care professionals need additional training in palliative care, end-of-life care, advance care planning, the assessment of symptoms such as pain and distress, and how to appropriately identify, care for and manage the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia.
- All health and aged care facilities must be equipped and supported to provide appropriate care to people with behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia so that no one is turned away from these services due to a diagnosis of dementia.
- People living with dementia and their carers need to be supported, through improved access to information and discussions with health professionals, to consider and document their end-of-life care wishes through advance care plans as soon as possible following diagnosis or onset of dementia symptoms.
- Improved access to support and respite is needed for families and carers of people living with dementia.
- Nationally consistent advance care planning legislation is needed to reduce jurisdictional confusion, provide protection to health professionals and community members, and allow care recipients to transition across borders to be closer to family and their community.
- Advance care plans should be linked to My Health Records, if the person living with dementia or their decision maker wishes, to ensure they can be accessed by all health professionals involved in the care of the individual in a timely manner.

“It is critical that people living with dementia and carers are able to access high-quality palliative care that is responsive, respectful, culturally appropriate, and which addresses the needs of the person receiving the care, respecting the person’s individuality, and promoting a good quality of life,” Ms Callaghan said.

The joint policy statement, Palliative Care and Dementia 2018 can be downloaded at www.dementia.org.au and www.palliativecare.org.au.

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WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
Displacement and relocation challenges of climate change for communities in the Pacific Islands Region
A three-day event in Brisbane 25–27 May 2018
forums - youth event - ecumenical church service

Image courtesy: Jocelyn Carlin

Forums on 25 & 26 May at Parliament House will include:
• An up-to-date overview of the impacts of climate change in the region
• How Pacific Island governments, communities and civil society organisations are responding to the challenges and Australia's response
• 26 May Forum (by invitation) – for Pacific Islands community leaders

The forums will be resourced by:
• Overseas presenters from affected communities in Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu
• Pacific climate change specialist, Prof Patrick Nunn, USC

Youth Event on 26 May at Reddcliffe Place in Brisbane City Square
• Pacific Island cultural performances, play, stalls and dance and music
• PI Youth showcasing Pacific Islands culture

Ecumenical Church Service on 27 May at St. John's Anglican Cathedral in Brisbane City
• Service officiated by Pacific Islands clergy working with affected communities

Register to attend: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/where-do-we-go>
For more information: info@picc.com.au

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

ABORTION IS HEALTH CARE

HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT!

28 MAY INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

Rally

5pm – 6pm

**Speakers Corner outside Parliament House
George St Brisbane CBD**

Organised by the Women's Abortion Rights Campaign, this rally is being held a month before the Qld Law Reform Commission Report on abortion decriminalisation will be presented to the Qld Government

'Jumping Fences' – song writing partnership of singer/guitarist Sue Monk and bassist, Lachlan Hurse.

Steven Miles, MP. Minister for Health and Member for Murrumba

Kate Flanders, Assistant Secretary, Together Union

Jackie Trad, MP. Deputy Premier and Member for South Brisbane

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Womens-Abortion-Rights-Campaign-Brisbane-1091562350942457/>



MESSAGE FROM SALLY McMANUS ACTU Secretary

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

[We need you to join us](#)

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

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

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

[Join an action](#)

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

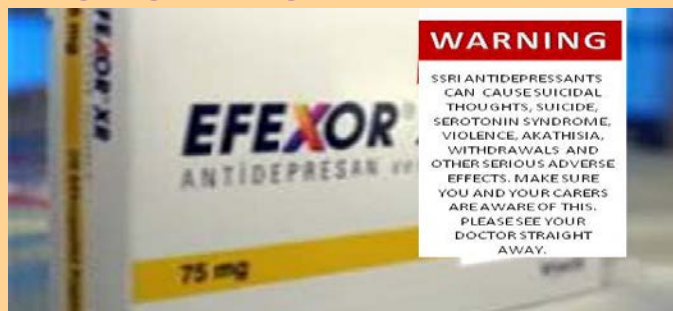
In unity,

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

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

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

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



**Petition to Australian Parliament
CLEAR WARNINGS ON ALL DANGEROUS MEDICATIONS**

OPEN 23/05/18

CLOSES: 20/06/2018

PLEASE SIGN AND SHARE!

(PLEASE GIVE THE PAGE A MOMENT TO LOAD.)

Petition Request

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

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

BACKGROUND:

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

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

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

Moreton Trivia Night

with your host former
House Speaker Harry Jenkins

6.30 p.m. Sat 9 June

Junction Park State School Hall, Annerley

**Entry just \$25 waged
or \$15 concession**

**includes BBQ dinner,
cash bar and great prizes**

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All proceeds to the ALP campaign for Moreton

Current Senate Inquiries as at 25/5/18

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Community Affairs References Committee

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

Economics Legislation Committee

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

Economics References Committee

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

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

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

Education and Employment References Committee

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

Environment and Communications References Committee

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

Finance and Public Administration References Committee

- [Digital delivery of government services](#)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

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

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Red Tape Committee

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

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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

- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
- [The need for regulation of mobility scooters, also known as motorised wheelchairs](#)
- [The operation, regulation and funding of air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities](#)
- [The integrity of the water market in the Murray-Darling Basin](#)
- [Regulatory requirements that impact on the safe use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, Unmanned Aerial Systems and associated systems.](#)
Select Committee into the Obesity Epidemic in Australia
- [Obesity Epidemic in Australia](#)
Select Committee into the Political Influence of Donations
- [Select Committee into the Political Influence of Donations](#)
Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education
- [Stillbirth Research and Education](#)
Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers
- [Senate Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers](#)



To Exist – Casey Sullivan

<http://www.moranprizes.com.au/competition/2018-moran-contemporary-photographic-prize/semi-finalists>