



Senator Claire Moore

WEEKLY UPDATE: 29th June, 2018

Phone: (07) 3252 7101; email: senior.moore@aph.gov.au;

Web: www.clairemoore.net; Twitter: www.twitter.com/SenClaireMoore;

www.facebook.com/SenatorClaireMoore;



Christoph Benn -Global Fund, Ben Rolfe- APLMA,
Lelio Marmora-Unitaid.

THIS WEEK:

I have received many letters and emails on the 'Espionage and Foreign Interference Bill' which came before the Senate this week. There were actually two bills that came before parliament – the first being the 'National Security Legislation (Espionage and Foreign Interference) Bill 2017' and the second Bill is the 'Foreign Interference Transparency Scheme Bill'. The two bills are very different in their purpose and effect.

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCS) worked over many months on the proposed legislation and recommended many amendments to the 'Espionage and Foreign Interference Bill' to achieve that important balance between security and the rights and freedoms of individuals. The PJCS recommended no fewer than 60 changes. These bills were immeasurably improved by those changes.

Mark Dreyfus, Labor's spokesperson on the bills, this week, spoke a number of times about the impact and implications of the bills – his comments can be found in this update.

When the PJCS report was released on Monday Mark said (in part): "I should stress that Labor has always supported some form of register to deal with foreign government interference or foreign government influence on our political system but the bill which was produced by the government on 7 December was very, very flawed and, of course, reached so broadly that it would have captured thousands of innocent Australian individuals and organisations - people ranging from environmental groups through to Indigenous rangers through to charities such as the Salvation Army. What has occurred, finally, is that the government recognised on 7 June, some six months to the day after the bill was first introduced by the Prime Minister on 7 December, the government has recognised that there was overreach in this bill and produced a set of amendments."

"Labor has worked extremely hard, not only on the bill that's been reported on today but on the other bill that you've just mentioned, the 'Espionage and Foreign Interference Bill' which is a bill of a quite different type. It creates some 38 criminal offences by amendments to the Crimes Act and the Criminal Code. And in it you'll see, from the report of the Intelligence Committee that Labor worked for a whole range of safeguards, for a tightening of many offence provisions, for the inclusion of additional defences.

Regrettably, in the debate which has followed the release of the Intelligence Committee's Report a number of, what I think are inaccurate suggestions about the way in which this bill would work. It's been suggested, for example, that protest against the Iraq War, were it to occur after this bill becomes law, would be, somehow a criminal act. That's simply not correct." It's been suggested that peaceful protest would somehow be criminalised by the amended sabotage provisions in this bill and that's not correct either."

We do understand there have been many concerns around the legislation and the original legislation did cause real concern. However we do believe that, after incorporating the changes recommended, that the legislation will strike the right balance.

As well it's good to see the week concluded with an end to the confusion around Labor's business tax policies. Our team of Bill Shorten, Chris Bowen and Jim Chalmers today made it abundantly clear what we, as a party, have been saying ever since Malcolm Turnbull floated his tax giveaway to the big end of town over two years ago; **"We will not reverse the company tax rate of 27.5 per cent that will be in place at the time of the next election for small and medium business up to \$50 million turnover a year. But we will not support Turnbull's tax handout to the top end of town – big businesses, multinationals and the banks."**

SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore
www.clairemoore.net



CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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

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

If you no longer wish to receive the weekly update and want to be removed from the mailing list just let us know. Postal:
PO Box 907 Fortitude Valley Post Shop Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

WHAT'S BEING SAID ...



TAX - PLIBERSEK- ABC NEWS BREAKFAST

"We have said all along that we absolutely support tax cuts for businesses up to \$2 million. We know that those businesses are often just Mum or Dad working from home, they're quite in need of that extra assistance, and so we have said that we support those tax cuts. We have also said we absolutely won't support tax cuts at the very high end. We know those very large companies don't allow that tax cut to trickle down as wages. The Business Council tried to get its members to sign a letter saying that they would pay their taxes, employ more Australians, invest more in Australia, stop offshoring, and their members didn't want to sign that letter."

ENERGY POLICY - MARK BUTLER - CANBERRA

"For five years now, under Prime Minister Abbott and Prime Minister Turnbull, this government has been completely incapable of coming up with an energy policy that would underpin the investment that Australia needs to deliver affordable, reliable electricity for Australian households and businesses. As a result, Australia has been plunged into a very deep energy crisis, which is crippling household budgets and also threatening the viability of many, many businesses which employ hundreds and thousands of Australians."

FOREIGN INFLUENCE - DREYFUS - CANBERRA

"Two significant laws that will curb foreign influence on our politics are expected to pass the Parliament. But the government has only finished half the job. Another part of the package – the ban on foreign donations – is still gathering dust. Why? You have to ask why. It's because the government apparently wants to go on raking in foreign donations into the Liberal Party's coffers, completely different to the Labor Party because we've said 18 months ago now that we are going to stop taking foreign donations."

TAX DODGERS - LEIGH-CANBERRA

"We know that the Liberals have a history of telling porkies on multinational tax. They claimed credit for the Chevron judgement, which added \$300 million to the budget, despite the fact that they had voted against those very laws in the parliament. And we've seen the Liberals again and again oppose Labor's sensible measures to close multinational tax loopholes"



TURNBULL'S PRIORITIES- SHORTEN - CANBERRA

"Now he's entitled to his opinion, he's made it very clear - he's for the top end of town, I'm for our hospitals and school funding. It is not his wealth that worries me, it's when he says really stupid things. When he says to young couples trying to buy their first home, "just get rich parents." When he says to 60 year old age care workers in Burnie - why can't they get a better tax cut, he says, "just get a better job." I genuinely think that Mr Turnbull is so out of touch with how millions of Australians live their lives, that's the problem."

TAX CUTS - ALY-SKY-CREDLIN

"We've always opposed tax cuts to the big end of town. According to the ATO, 98 per cent of businesses have a turnover of \$10 million or less, so when Malcolm Turnbull want to give tax cuts to big business he is actually talking that 2 per cent of which 60 per cent of the tax cuts will flow to foreign investors."

TAX CUTS - BOWEN - ALAN JONES 2GB

"Just for your listeners interests Alan, all businesses between zero and \$2 million in turnover, and that's 811,000 companies Alan. They will receive a tax cut regardless of who wins the election. That's 91 per cent of all companies in Australia. Now we have made no secret of the fact that we are against the big business tax cut. You and I have talked before about debt being greater than half a trillion dollars, for example, and tough decisions being necessary. "

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Turnbull was given a resounding message from business that new coal-fired power stations are simply uninvestable in this country. Indeed, the only businessman that indicated any interest in partnering with Malcolm Turnbull in such a venture was Clive Palmer, whose last great idea was building Titanic II." – Mark Butler

"The extent to which the government's decision to force NBN to switch to Malcolm Turnbull's Multi-Technology Mix model will expose it to financial disaster has become clearer this week from Telstra head Andy Penn's comments about his 5G rollout." - Bernard Keane

WHY POLICE SHOULD NEVER INVESTIGATE THEMSELVES

A 12-month investigation by Victoria Police and the state's corruption watchdog has been unable to explain why a young couple attending a swinger's party in Melbourne's CBD were repeatedly shot by heavily armed officers as they engaged in a sex act.

Fairfax Media can reveal that the couple have not been spoken to by anyone from the Armed Crime Squad or the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission since they provided statements immediately after the shooting at Inflation nightclub on July 8 last year.



The delay has allegedly exacerbated the trauma of Zita Sukys, 38, and Dale Ewins, 36, who was accused by senior police of pointing a fake gun at members of the critical incident response team but has still not been charged with any offence.

Investigators have not contacted two employees at Inflation nightclub, who were within five metres of the couple as two members of the critical incident response team fired three shots.

But almost a year after the shooting at the King Street nightclub, the club's owner Martha Tsamis has accused the force of a "deliberate whitewash".

"Those involved need to be held to account and the public provided with a full and open account of the circumstances behind the shooting," Ms Tsamis said.

"How long does it take to investigate a relatively simple incident? Police were told the venue was hosting a fancy dress party and that a patron had a toy gun, yet they proceeded to storm in and shoot two people who according to the independent witnesses did not point the gun at police or display any threatening behaviour," Ms Tsamis said.

The case is expected to fuel concerns about the ability of police to independently investigate their own following an IBAC audit of Professional Standards Command that uncovered "deficiencies" in the handling of internal complaints.

The audit released last week found that 95 per cent of the files checked did not clearly address any actual or potential conflicts of interest between investigators and the police officers they were investigating.

DISCRIMINATION

About one in six Victorian parent's struggles to enrol their disabled children in mainstream government schools, according to a new report that reveals widespread discrimination in the state's education system.

The study by Monash University's Castan Centre for Human Rights Law found 15 per cent of families had difficulty enrolling their disabled child in a mainstream state school, and the same proportion felt pressured to leave their school. "Some government schools continue to turn away students because of their disability," it said. "This often takes the form of school leaders discouraging parents from seeking enrolment for their child, on the basis that the school isn't the right 'fit' for the student, or can't accommodate the student's needs."

When inquiring about schools for her autistic son, mother-of-three Mel Spencer said she was told by one principal that he "already had enough autistic students". [As a parent of a child with a disability I have experienced this exact same behaviour and given Nick is now 22 that was 12 years ago – obviously this discrimination has continued ever since – it suggest the values we supposedly cherish and live by are increasingly nothing more than a myth!]

Meanwhile in Iran ...Ed]

MEANWHILE IN IRAN...

People with disabilities in Iran are cut off from society because of discrimination and inaccessible public buildings and services.

Approximately 12 million people have some kind of a disability in Iran. A new report from Human Rights Watch tells their stories.

Hassan (not his real name), who uses a wheelchair in Tehran, said: "I try to avoid using escalators, but sometimes I have no other choice, with my heavy wheelchair..., getting on the escalator feels like a suicide [mission]."

TURNBULL'S TECH MESS

A Senate Committee tabled its findings this week, after an inquiry demanded by Labor, to investigate the trail of government tech wrecks and stalled digital transformation projects that have befallen the public service in recent years. . Its tabling by committee chairman Labor senator Jenny McAllister came just days after the head of the government's Digital Transformation Authority, Gavin Slater, abruptly left his position after just 16 months in the role. It contained a list of eight recommendations; however they were largely rejected by government members on the committee. The report detailed a catalogue of recent failures since the last election.

Mr Slater's predecessor in charge of the Digital Transformation Agency (DTA), Paul Shetler, has previously spoken out about the inability to drive much-needed change across government, due to a lack of interest from successive ministers.

DUTTON THREATENS BABY

Sam (not his real name) is a seven month old baby whose parents are seeking asylum in Australia, having arrived by boat some years ago. But to the Department of Home Affairs, Sam is a "client" with an application ID and a file number. And in the Kafkaesque world of that department, Sam is treated as though he were an adult.

Earlier this month Sam received a letter from the department. It was written by "Bill" — officers in this department rarely reveal their surname when they send bad news to migrants. "Bill" works in the "Community Status Resolution" branch of the department. The letter was not addressed to his parents, which would have been sensible since, as adults, they can read, write and comprehend. It was addressed to Sam. No need to read that again, you understood it: the letter from the department was addressed to a seven month old child.

The "Dear Sam" letter tells him that the application he personally made for a bridging visa is not valid because "it did not meet section 46A of the Migration Act" because he was an "unauthorised maritime arrival" and therefore "an unlawful non-citizen". This would be news to Sam, given that he was only born seven months ago and could not be an "unauthorised maritime arrival".

But because of this label, he was advised to “depart Australia or contact the department for advice and assistance on resolving [his] status as soon as possible.”

FISH&CHIPS

The national best fish & chips competition has started. Last year's competition reeled in over 100,000 votes from more than 800 stores. This year is bound to be bigger — with over 2,000 shops already registered to date.

Voting at starts on August 1 and is open until 16 September with the national winner announced on 15 October 2018. For further information you can visit www.fishandchipsawards.com.au.

[Personally, after a three week tour of Tasmania over Christmas – a Tasmanian outlet has to win – my choice? ‘Skippers’- St Helens or ‘Get Shucked’ on Bruny Island they were both superb – best ever! Ed]



MORE COAL PLEASE ...

Australia's emissions over the past year were again the highest on record when unreliable data from land use and forestry sectors are excluded, according to new data from NDEVR Environmental. If the country's greenhouse gas emissions continue on their current trajectory, Australia will miss its Paris target by a billion tonnes of CO₂, which is equal to about two years of Australia's entire national emissions.



NDEVR replicates the federal government's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (NGGI) quarterly reports, but releases them months ahead of the official data. Previous NDEVR reports' figures have been within 1% of the official figures when they are eventually released.

The latest figures include the first three months of 2018 and show Australia's national emissions up to March were the highest since records began in 2002.

GAOL FOR TRUTH TELLERS -Crikey

In a case expected to have major free speech ramifications, former ACT attorney-general and Canberra lawyer Bernard Collaery and former ASIS officer “Witness K” face jail after the government launched an extraordinary prosecution in relation to the bugging of the East Timorese cabinet.



In 2013, Collaery — then acting both for the East Timorese government and for Witness K, a former senior Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS) officer — revealed that ASIS, at the instruction of the Howard government, had illegally bugged the East Timorese cabinet in 2004 to secure an advantage to Australia in treaty negotiations with the fledgling state over natural resources in the Timor Sea. Both the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) secretary at the time, and the then-minister for foreign affairs Alexander Downer, later took positions with a beneficiary of the treaty, petroleum company Woodside.

The charge currently carries a sentence of 10 years in jail but Collaery and K will be charged under provisions in place in 2013 — before then-attorney general George Brandis strengthened the sentence — which carries a two-year jail sentence. The matter will be heard in the ACT Magistrates Court on July 25, where it is expected that the Commonwealth will attempt to have the prosecution conducted in camera to prevent the trial from being scrutinised by the media.

In an extraordinary further move, the government has also sought to slap a gag order on Collaery to prevent him discussing his defence or aspects of the case without its approval.

The government has punished and harassed K and Collaery since 2013. K was refused his passport despite the head of ASIO making clear the domestic security agency had no concerns about the former ASIS officer being allowed to travel overseas. It is understood that Julie Bishop and ASIS are behind the decision to withhold K's passport; K's lawyers have taken action to have that decision overturned, but that action has now been pre-empted by the prosecution of Collaery. Collaery has himself been the subject of constant surveillance by intelligence agencies.

It marks yet another step in the Turnbull government's war on criticism and dissent, and is directly linked to the government's current war on the ABC. ABC journalists Emma Alberici, Peter Lloyd, Connor Duffy and Marian Wilkinson, and producer Peter Cronau, are all identified in the prosecution as people to whom Collaery passed illicit information.

DUMB RIGHT



Katter's Australia Party Senator Fraser Anning said NSW had followed the “socialist state” of Victoria by passing laws to provide 150-metre safe zones outside abortion clinics to prevent abuse and harassment.

His Senate motion condemning NSW parliament for passing the bill was defeated 34-17, with government senators given a conscience vote.

“These zones are nothing more than anti-free speech areas,” Senator Anning told parliament on Monday.

“Worse still, they target the nature of these exclusion zones which only exclude those peacefully defending the rights to life of the unborn.”

Independent Derryn Hinch took aim at Senator Anning's “cruel and insensitive antics” before reminding him of Peter James Knight, who murdered a Melbourne abortion clinic security guard in 2001.

Senator Hinch said the safe zones protected women from ratbags and religious zealots who target women at their most vulnerable. “This motion is an obscenity,” Senator Hinch said.

OUR REEF ... THEIR RUBBISH - News Ltd

The United Nations has been asked to investigate the Australian Government after green groups claimed it had failed to protect the Great Barrier Reef from the effects of land clearing. The Australian Conservation Foundation, Australian Marine Conservation Society, WWF Australia and the Wilderness Society have written to the UN environmental arm, UNESCO, accusing the Government of breaking promises made when the Reef was at risk of being listed as a World Heritage site “in danger”. The groups say that 36,600ha of old-growth forest have been earmarked to be bulldozed in Reef catchments. Permits were granted under Queensland's former LNP government. While the now State Labor Government has tightened the laws, existing permits can't be cancelled. The groups argue that the Federal Government could

intervene. "Australia's promise to strengthen laws to protect bushland in Reef catchments was one of the key pledges that convinced the World Heritage Committee not to place the reef on the in-danger list in 2015," Australian Marine Conservation Society Reef campaign director Imogen Zethoven said yesterday

SCREW IT DOWN ...

It is estimated that 2600 Australians required hospital treatment for injuries caused by toppling furniture and televisions each year. Children under three are at greatest risk, and 82 per cent of injuries occur in the home, the ACCC said. Royal Children's Hospital's trauma service director Warwick Teague said falling furniture could not only strike a child, but it could also trap and crush them, causing life-threatening injuries or death.

"Common injuries from TV and furniture tip-over incidents result from significant blunt force trauma and include broken bones, brain injuries, crushed chest cavities and even death by asphyxiation," he said.



YUK!

- In 2011-12, Australians consumed an average of 60 grams of free sugars per day (equivalent to 14 teaspoons of white sugar). The majority of free sugar intakes comes from added sugars with an average 52 grams (or 12 teaspoons), with 7 grams of free sugars coming from honey and fruit juice.
- Intakes of free sugars were highest among teenage males (aged 14-18 years), who consumed an average 92 grams per day. The top 10% of the 14-18 year old males were estimated to usually consume at least 160 grams (or 38 teaspoons) of free sugars per day.
- Just over half of all Australians aged 2 years and over exceeded the WHO recommendation to limit energy from free sugars to less than 10% of dietary energy. Children and teenagers were most likely to exceed the recommendation with almost three-quarters of 9-13 and 14-18 year olds usually consuming 10% or more of their dietary energy from free sugars. The highest 10% of 14-18 year olds were deriving at least 23% of their energy from free sugars. Adults aged 51-70 years were least likely to exceed the recommendation (38% of males and 35% of females).

The majority (81%) of free sugars were consumed from the energy-dense, nutrient-poor 'discretionary' foods and beverages. Just over half (52%) of free sugars in the diet were consumed from beverages, with the leading beverages being soft drinks, electrolyte and energy drinks (19%), fruit and vegetable juices and drinks (13%) and cordial (4.9%). The leading foods were confectionary and cakes/muffins (each contributing 8.7%).

YOUR HEALTH ... THEIR PROFIT - MORE CORPORATE DISHONESTY

The ACCC's annual report into the private health insurance industry shows that complaints to the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman increased 30 per cent in the 2017 financial year compared to the prior year. This was the fourth consecutive year complaints had risen. "We believe private health insurers are capable of providing consumers with significantly more detail about the extent of coverage under their policies," ACCC act



The ACCC report noted that policies are "complex, with varying exclusions, restrictions, waiting periods, excesses and co-payments expressed using technical, medical and legal language". ACCC acting chair Delia Rickard said consumers are increasingly questioning whether the benefits of private health insurance offset the premium increases. She called on the industry to make its products more consumer friendly by providing more transparent information. "Consumers rely on private health funds engaging with them honestly," she said. "We've found it's currently very difficult for consumers to properly compare and choose policies for their needs, meaning many are shocked when presented with expensive bills for medical services and products they thought they were covered for."



BANKING LOW LIVES – Some more disgraceful moments from the Banking Royal Commission

- When ANZ bought the \$2.3 billion Landmark rural loan portfolio in 2009, about \$273 million (or 12 per cent) of its loans were in trouble and the bank planned to ramp up interest rates to cover the risk, the banking royal commission has heard.

The bank was warned by consultants McGrath Nicol that it had likely paid too much for the purchase. That move would have effectively made the good clients pay for the extra risk the bank was taking on.



The commission received documents showing that ANZ planned to earn an extra \$6 million on the portfolio by boosting interest rates but Benjamin Steinberg, the bank executive in charge of rural lending, could not say for sure if the bank had actually implemented that measure.

“You mean you can’t tell the Commissioner if ANZ took up the opportunity to re-price the loans to the value of \$6 million?” asked counsel assisting Rowena Orr QC.

“Yes,” responded Mr Steinberg.

“... Right,” replied an incredulous Ms Orr.

- Wendy Brauer a Queensland cattle farmer described her treatment by lender Rabobank

“They put us backwards. They came hunting for us. They came looking for us to buy this block and 12 months later they wanted us to pay back more than we borrowed. I don’t understand. I don’t understand.” She said the new managers were intimidating, describing one as a “bully” and saying she was surprised he “wasn’t carrying a baseball bat”.

- The ANZ Bank made a debt extension agreement with a farming family that gave them only one day to leave their home if they couldn’t sell it within a six-month period, the financial services royal commission has heard.

Evidence to the commission showed that WA farmers Steve and Janine Harley had been ordered in September 2013 to repay \$2.3 million to the bank by March 30, 2014. The Harley family had been on the same land for more than 100 years.



The couple had been struggling for some years, with the bank giving them extensions as they had tried to sell down their land holdings. One had been sold in mid-2012, yielding \$170,000, which they had paid to the bank.

Mr Harley suffered a heart attack in May 2013 and was flown to Perth by the Royal Flying Doctor Service. A few weeks later the bank declared them in default. One of the conditions to the extension was that if they could not repay the loan they would have to move out of their house on April 1, the day after it expired.

That fact drew Commissioner Kenneth Hayne into the discussion. “Was one day a reasonable period?” he asked ANZ executive Benjamin Steinberg.

“I believe it’s reasonable,” Mr Steinberg replied.

- A Western Victorian farming family with three generations in the industry had their home sold by the ANZ despite an internal bank memo admitting their plea to keep two houses to live in would not hurt the bank.

In October 2011, they were told they would need to sell all their property, plant and equipment within six weeks or the bank would move in and take possession in seven days, leaving them homeless and without income.



At that point, the Cheesemans made another offer that would allow them to hold onto two house blocks to give them a home and machinery that would allow them to earn income as contractors or share farmers.

Despite an internal bank document showing ANZ believed that holding the two houses would not earn any more money for the bank than selling them, the sale was ordered anyway. “I find it sad that that happened.” Mr Steinberg said

Later inquiries revealed the bank’s harsh approach had actually cut \$140,000 in equity value from the sale of the family’s other home.

The bank offered them \$270,000 in recompense, despite internal documents showing it could have offered as much as \$390,000.

- A Queensland family was forced to sell its farm after Commonwealth Bank subsidiary Bankwest triggered a default on its loans in a way it admitted to the financial services royal commission was unfair and in breach of the banking code of practice.

The family, Marg and Mel Ruddy, were forced to sell a property for \$750,000 in 2013 after a rogue bank employee had valued it at \$1.2 million in 2011 to ensure it met the bank’s lending criteria when the couple became his clients.

Despite the bank not admitting to the erroneous valuation, it cut the value of its loan in its own calculations. It then used this as a trigger to declare the loan in default because it had fallen below acceptable loan-to-valuation standards.

That forced the Ruddys to sell the property as part of an agreement dictated by the bank.

“Was it fair and reasonable to rely on a revision to its own erroneous valuation to trigger a non-monetary default?” Ms Orr asked Commonwealth Bank officer Sinead Taylor.

“It was not fair,” Ms Taylor replied.

[But they did it anyway! Surely in many of these incidents of unconscionable behaviour by the banks that they should be forced to pay substantial compensation to those whose lives they ruined. Even when these vultures acknowledge they were wrong and pay compensation they still cheat and lie. There’s a simple solution; don’t bank with them, don’t do business with them and don’t have any dealings with them. David Margin, Ed]

ECONOMY

LABOR SUPPORTS SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES Shorten/Bowen/Chalmers

A Shorten Labor Government will deliver tax cuts for small and medium size businesses stop Turnbull's tax handout for the big banks and properly fund schools and hospitals.

Labor has listened and we recognise that small and medium businesses need certainty and confidence for the future. We will not reverse the company tax rate of 27.5 per cent that will be in place at the time of the next election for small and medium business up to \$50 million turnover a year. But we will not support Turnbull's tax handout to the top end of town – big businesses, multinationals and the banks.

The next election will be a contest between Labor's plan for better schools and hospitals, and Turnbull's plan to give a \$17 billion handout to the big banks.

We can afford to extend tax relief to businesses with a turnover of up to \$50 million a year because we've made hard budget decisions to pay for our priorities.

With Labor – 99 per cent of businesses will receive a tax cut, no business will have their tax rate increased, and all businesses will be able to plan and invest with confidence and certainty.

All Australian businesses will also be able to benefit from Labor's Australian Investment Guarantee, with tax breaks to expand and invest in their business – and support Australian jobs.

The choice at the next election crystal clear.

A vote for Mr Turnbull and the Liberals is a vote to give \$17 billion to the big banks while cutting \$17 billion for our schools. We will fight Turnbull's tax giveaway to the top end of town every day to the next election.

This decision saves \$2 billion across the forward estimates and \$62 billion across the 10-year medium term, money that will be used to pay down debt and to fund our priorities in health and education.

A vote for Labor is a vote for a better deal for schools, a better deal for hospitals, and a better deal for small and family businesses.

TURNBULL TEMPORARY DEFEAT COVER FOR SECRET HANSON DEAL- Bowen

This week's back down by the Turnbull Government on putting the company tax legislation to the Senate – after promising to do it firstly in March and this week – is either another massive failure for this Prime Minister or reflects another secret deal between the Coalition and One Nation that they are hiding from voters in Longman, Braddon, Mayo, Perth and Fremantle until after their by-elections.

The Government needs to come out today and immediately rule out that it has done a secret deal with One Nation to give \$80 billion in tax cuts to big business company.

Today's humiliation of Mathias Cormann is all about running a protection racket for Pauline Hanson at the upcoming by-election in Longman, so One Nation isn't seen to be voting for big business tax cuts before the people of Longman cast their vote.



It's a matter of public record that the Turnbull Government and One Nation had an earlier deal in return for supporting the company tax cuts fall over that ultimately saw Senator Brian Burston walk away from the minor party.

One Nation votes with Mr Turnbull 90 per cent of the time – they are backing his hospital cuts, his school cuts, and they'll back his \$80 billion tax giveaway to big business and the banks.

Pauline Hanson belatedly pays lip service to 'multinational tax' and the 'battler', but actually 60 per cent of the Turnbull Government's big business tax handout goes directly to foreign shareholders.

In contrast, Labor's *Australian Investment Guarantee* is a pro-growth, pro-jobs reform that rewards businesses making new investments in Australia.

Under the Australian Investment Guarantee, all businesses in Australia will be able to immediately deduct 20 per cent of any new eligible asset worth more than \$20,000, with the balance depreciated in line with normal depreciation schedules from the first year.

The next election will be a referendum on Malcolm Turnbull's \$80 billion tax giveaway to big business. It will be a choice between Mr Turnbull's plan to send more money to the top end of town while cutting schools and hospitals, and Labor's plan for better schools, better hospitals and better income tax cuts.

And the only way to stop Turnbull's \$80 billion big business tax cut is to vote Labor.

MORE EVIDENCE AGAINST GOVERNMENT TAX CUTS - Bowen

The Turnbull Government's plan to lock in more than \$200 billion of tax cuts over the medium term has been upended today by one of the most respected global institutions, the Bank of International Settlements (BIS).

In its Annual Report, the BIS has warned against the "*continuous build-up of debt*" and that governments should "*rebuild policy buffers*" now to be well placed to tackle the next downturn.

The BIS also gave Australia a specific mention, pointing out that while some countries like the United Kingdom and the United States "*have seen some private sector deleveraging*" leaving them less vulnerable, "*household credit as a ratio to GDP remains at historical highs in Australia*" [page 13].

This follows recent advice from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that also recommends governments rebuild fiscal buffers in to create room to provide fiscal support in an eventual downturn.

At a time when some of the most globally respected organisations like the BIS and the IMF are arguing forcefully about the need to re-build fiscal buffers during the global upswing, the Government is doing the exact opposite.

Instead of taking advantage of the better international economic conditions, and putting in place a better plan to pay down debt, the Government is hijacking the budget with more than \$200 billion in new tax cuts that leave Australia less able to respond to a global downturn if one eventuates.

The calls from the BIS follow comments from the Grattan Institute which in relation to the tax cuts has said "*we do not think it is prudent to be providing tax cuts of this magnitude that far in the future*" and that as a result the budget "*will inherently have less flexibility in a significant downturn*".

This is exactly why Labor does not support the hugely expensive tax cuts on the never never which together with the government's fiscally reckless company tax cut will blow a \$25 billion annual hole in the budget, something that will put jobs and future services at risk.

Labor is the only party heeding the advice and making the tough decisions on the budget.

TAX TRANSPARENCY, COURTESY OF LABOR - Leigh

Hundreds of Australia's biggest private companies are one step closer to being forced out of the shadows and into the sunlight, thanks to a Labor bill passed today.

The Private Senator's Bill would ensure that big businesses have their high-level tax information published, which will allow proper scrutiny and help restore the trust in the integrity of the tax system that was brought about when the Gillard Government passed tax transparency reforms in June 2013.

In December 2015, the Greens and the Liberals raised the transparency threshold for private companies from \$100 million to \$200 million. This dodgy deal took two-thirds of the private companies out of the spotlight and back into the darkness.

The deal has moved one step closer to being reversed, with the Senate voting to lower the tax transparency threshold to \$50 million for all firms – public and private.

The bill also removes [a grandfathering exemption for certain financial reports for approximately 1500 large companies](#). Labor supported this when former Senator Ricky Muir moved it during the Multinational Anti-Avoidance Law debate, where it was opposed by the Liberals and the Greens.

The private Senator's bill stands alongside other Labor transparency measures, including disclosure of tax haven activity in government tenders, public reporting of country-by-country reports and protection for whistle-blowers who uncover tax dodging by multinationals.

With rising inequality and mounting government debt, Labor stands on the side of middle Australia and small business, not millionaires and multinationals. While Malcolm Turnbull is fighting to give big business a multibillion dollar handout, Labor is fighting for tax transparency to promote fairness.

Australians want more tax transparency. Only Labor will deliver.

SLOMO ON THE UPTAKE (AGAIN): TAX CUTS DO COST THE BUDGET - Bowen

Another day, another reminder that Scott Morrison isn't up to the job of Treasurer and is more interested in out-dated Reaganomics and the Tea Party than paying off debt and protecting the Australian economy.

Scott Morrison said at a doorstep: "*I don't consider tax relief a cost to the Budget*". What a truly bizarre and looney tune comment to make. This shows Australians everything that is wrong with the Turnbull Government digging massive structural holes in the Budget, courtesy of the \$140 billion income tax and \$80 billion big business handout while gross debt is projected to remain above half a trillion dollars.

Memo to Scott Morrison: cuts in tax *do* cost the Budget.

The Government is being fiscally reckless when it says it will bring the tax cuts forward if the economy improves, but will deliver them even in the face of a significant economic downturn: meaning either the budget will worsen substantially or essential services and supports will be cut

yet again.

This latest line of thinking that somehow cutting tax pays for itself is concerning, because it suggests that if Australia faces another external economic shock in the future, and the revenue dries up, we won't see tax cuts for big business or high income earners repealed, but more cuts to health, education and other basic services.

RBA ANALYSIS BACKS IN TAX BREAKS TO DRIVE NEW INVESTMENT-Bowen

New economic analysis in Australia released by the RBA yesterday has found that tax breaks on investment used during the global financial crisis (GFC) "substantially raised investment" and growth.

A new Research Discussion paper released by the RBA entitled "The GFC Investment Tax Break", has found that in relation to investment allowances used by Labor during the GFC that **"The tax break had a strong effect on business-level investment" and "both GDP growth and the cash rate would have been significantly lower in 2009 without the tax break"**.

This new analysis demonstrates the value of the recession busting policies used by Labor to support jobs and in navigating the largest global synchronised downturn since the great depression.

It also highlights the value in tax breaks for business investment like Labor's Australian Investment Guarantee which will allow companies to immediately write off 20% of the value of all new investments in both tangible and non-tangible assets in the first year.

Drawing on previous recent studies, the RBA points out that in the United States; **"accelerated depreciation raised eligible investment by 10 per cent during 2001-04 and by 17 per cent in 2008-10, relative to ineligible investment"**.

This provides further justification and evidence that Labor's Investment Guarantee will through generous and permanent new accelerated depreciation rules help support businesses large and small who want to invest in Australia.

This is a targeted, affordable and well thought out policy that won't damage the medium term budget position and importantly rewards businesses that actually invest and create jobs.

This stands in stark contrast to the Government's \$80 billion big business company tax cut that drives a large structural hole in the budget, undermines future Government service delivery and does not guarantee any new investment.

Recent modelling for the Melbourne Economic Forum by Janine Dixon showed that compared to a company tax cut, an investment subsidy is actually up **"three times more effective as a stimulus to investment"**.

Labor's Investment Guarantee will improve cash flow making more attractive those marginal projects that otherwise may not get off the ground and will also drive investment in "knowledge assets" – supporting new investments in the new economy that embody more innovation and human capital.

When it comes to the budget and driving new investment, Labor has the superior plan.

GOVERNMENT MUZZLES ASIC - Keogh

ASIC has confirmed that despite the rhetoric of industry funding, its capacity to pursue regulatory priorities like keeping our banks on the straight and narrow is at the mercy of Government funding.

When the Government introduced industry funding it said that it would **"better protect consumers"** and **"make ASIC a stronger regulator"**.

It vowed to throw the book at the big banks, only last year announcing **"ASIC will make industry more accountable for its behaviour"**. ([30 March 2017](#))

This week Kelly O'Dwyer told the Parliament **"the government is committed to ensuring that ASIC has the resources and powers it needs to combat misconduct in Australia's financial services industry and bolster consumer confidence in the sector"**. ([18 June 2018](#))

But yet again it has broken this promise, cutting the regulator's funding and super visionary capabilities with a \$26 million funding cut over the next three years.



ASIC Chair James Shipton revealed in today's Public Economics Hearing that even though the Government offsets its costs of funding ASIC, it is nevertheless reducing its funding at a time its workload is increasing.

Mr Shipton last month approached the Treasurer for more funding to increase ASIC's supervisory capacity in financial institutions as the current industry funding model means they are completely at the mercy of the government's finance department.

The regulator came under fire today for not being tough enough on banks and financial advisors whose unconscionable behaviour is being exposed in the banking Royal Commission, but how can they be when they are starved by the hand that feeds them?

This comes as the Turnbull Government continues to delay measures to tackle payday lending and product intervention power reforms that will give regulations and consumers more power to get a better deal.

Only Labor will continue to work to ensure ASIC and the Royal Commission deliver justice to those who have suffered because of the misconduct in the banking and financial services sector.

Only appropriate regulation of the banks and funding of the authorities that hold them to account will ensure that business's and employees doing the right thing will benefit, contributing to the long term economic sustainability of our nation.

TOP END TAX CUTS TO COST \$10 BILLION IN EXTRA INTEREST -Chalmers

Australians will pay more than \$10 billion in interest on Malcolm Turnbull's top end income tax cuts, new calculations reveal.

Opposition analysis shows that Australians will be slugged \$10.3 billion more in interest payments for Stage 2 and 3 of the Liberals' personal income tax cuts than if that money went towards paying down their record debt.

That equates to more than \$415 for every man, woman and child in the entire country.

Workers on low and middle incomes will be disgusted to learn Turnbull and his Liberals expect them to pay the interest on billions of dollars of tax cuts going to those who need them least.

First the Liberals held modest tax relief for low- and middle-income earners hostage to the top end tax cuts in seven years' time, and now they expect ordinary Australians to foot the extra interest bill as well.

And that doesn't include \$8 billion in extra interest on the Liberals' \$80 billion corporate tax handouts, amounting to a whopping \$18 billion top end tax cut interest bill.

This hammers home yet again the out-of-touch and out-of-whack priorities of Turnbull and his Liberals.

They already want to give an \$80 billion handout to multinationals and the big banks, most of which will spray around offshore in the form of executive bonuses, share buybacks and puffed-up dividends for overseas investors.

Under the Liberals, net debt has doubled, gross debt has crashed through half-a-trillion dollars for the first time in the country's history, and both kinds of debt are growing quicker in good global conditions than under the former Labor Government, which had a global financial crisis to contend with.

Labor will not only give working Australians a bigger, better, fairer tax cut, but will manage the nation's finances in a far more responsible way than the Liberals as well.

	\$m	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total
Start of year Debt		0	8,923	19,668	37,659	57,879	80,185	104,890	
Interest on stock		0	250	551	1,054	1,621	2,245	2,937	8,658
UCB impact of tax cut (PBO)		8,800	10,350	17,200	18,900	20,400	22,150	23,800	
Interest through year		123	145	241	265	286	310	333	1,702
End of year debt		8,923	19,668	37,659	57,879	80,185	104,890	131,960	
							Total Interest		10,360.1

Note: Calculations based on not proceeding with Stage 2 and 3 from PBO submission to Senate ([link](#)), and uses rate of future issuance of 2.8%, as published in the Budget [p7-14].

Interest is paid for the full year on the start of year debt (Interest on stock).

To fund the annual cost of the tax cut, debt will be progressively issued through the year in equal amounts. Interest is paid after debt is issued (Interest through year).

ELECTORAL REFORM

FOREIGN INFLUENCE – HALF THE JOB DONE - Dreyfus/Farrell



The Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill and the National Security Legislation (Espionage and Foreign Interference) Amendment Bill, passed through the Senate last night, will significantly curb foreign influence on our democratic system.

But the government has only done half the job – it is still yet to ban foreign donations. The government's own bill to ban foreign donations is gathering dust. In fact, the government is yet to respond to the Joint Select Committee on Electoral Matters' report on the bill, published in April.

The government's failure to progress the bill through the Parliament means the coalition can continue raking in foreign money for at least the next six weeks until Parliament returns, including through the by-election period.

Labor voluntarily gave up taking foreign donations many months ago, in line with our policy of prohibiting foreign political donations.

You have to ask - why has the government failed to eliminate this very significant element

of foreign influence, when it has acted so quickly on these other bills? Surely it is not because of monetary benefit to the party?

We call on the government to end their shameless hypocrisy, cease accepting foreign donations and legislate a ban as soon as Parliament resumes

TIME FOR TURNBULL TO PUT HIS FOREIGN MONEY WHERE HIS MOUTH IS - Farrell

Turnbull's Liberals are all talk and no action on banning foreign donations.

This week I asked three simple questions of Special Minister of State Senator Mathias Cormann, in his capacity representing the Prime Minister in the Senate:

- When did the Federal Liberal Party last accept a foreign donation?
- When will the Prime Minister follow Bill Shorten's lead and personally commit the Liberal Party to immediately cease accepting foreign donations?
- Does the Prime Minister agree with Senator Simon Birmingham's comment about multi-million dollar foreign donations to the Liberal party, in which he said: "I don't care who wants to give money to the Liberal Party."

The Minister did not answer any of those questions.

He wouldn't tell the Australian people when the Liberal Party last received a foreign donation.

He wouldn't tell the Australian people when the Liberal Party will stop accepting foreign donations.

And he couldn't even tell the Australian people that Malcolm Turnbull even cares about where donations to the Liberal Party are coming from.

More than 575 days since Labor introduced its plans to Parliament and more than a decade since Labor first committed to cleaning up political donations laws, the Liberals continue to delay, dawdle and distract.

And, unlike Labor, the Liberals continue to accept foreign donations.

The Liberals must get on with responding to the issues raised by JSCEM, they must announce a time-line for implementing this much needed reform and they must and immediately follow Labor's lead and voluntarily stop accepting foreign donations until this issue is dealt with by the Parliament.

CIVIL SOCIETY PROTECTIONS SECURED IN TRANSPARENCY SCHEME REPORT-Dreyfus

Labor has secured important exemptions for charities, arts organisations and trade unions in today's bipartisan Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJICIS) report on the Foreign Interference Transparency Scheme Bill 2017.

Labor has listened to feedback from these key civil society organisations, who were concerned they would be forced to deal with an unreasonable compliance burden in registering for the scheme.

It is clear the scheme was never meant to capture innocent charities, arts organisations or unions who were simply doing their job. Labor worked to ensure the scheme was better targeted, removing these organisations from its reach and improving the bill. The amendments recommended in the report represent the second major set of changes to the original bill, introduced by the Prime Minister in December last year. Labor welcomes recognition from the government that the original bill was completely unworkable in its breadth. Earlier amendments secured important protections for journalists, and narrowed the registration requirement in the bill to those working on behalf of a foreign government or foreign government-related entity. Labor will always approach matters related to national security and protection of our democracy in a bipartisan manner, while ensuring the impacts on civil society and traditional liberties are limited. Because of the committee's work to improve the bill, the rights of charities and unions to undertake important advocacy, and for arts organisations to undertake international collaborations, have been protected. Labor urges the government to adopt all the committee's recommendations.

SOCIAL SERVICES

GOVERNMENT MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT TO ACCESS CENTRELINK - Burney/Husic

Anglicare has released a [report](#) today finding that the Government's digitisation and automation of Centrelink is making it more for Australians to access Centrelink.

Over the past year, the Government has attempted to shift more people to managing their Centrelink matters online.

But this transition has not been easy for [older Australians](#) and vulnerable Australians.

Many are finding Centrelink's online platform difficult to navigate.

People are attending Centrelink in person or phoning Centrelink because the online platform is simply not easy to use.

But people who attend in person are being redirected online or redirected to the phones, and again forced to endure long wait times.



It's a vicious cycle of vulnerable Australians being forced to the edge of their bank accounts while they wait for, or simply not receive their payments at all.

Labor welcomes the transition of services online, so long as it remains accessible for vulnerable Australians.

But it shouldn't mean that we neglect in-person and phone services.

It should also involve providing vulnerable Australians with the support necessary to learn to navigate the online system.

The Turnbull Government has demonstrated time and again that it is only interested in making the claiming of income support so difficult and frightening in the hope people just give up.

- He @TurnbullMalcolm is too generous:**
- 1 \$5 for the homeless
 - 2 \$500,000 for his own Foundation
 - 3 \$2,000,000 for his own Party so he can keep his job

PHONE SERVICES

This year, the number of busy signals for older Australians using the age pension phone line is projected to increase from 800,000 to 1.2 million. Centrelink call wait times have blown out for older Australians, students, and families and parents.

CALL WAIT TIME INCREASES

Payment type	2016-17	2017-18 as at 31 March
Older Australians	18 minutes and 59 seconds	23 minutes and 1 second
Students	31 minutes and 15 seconds	35 minutes and 0 seconds
Families	16 minutes and 19 seconds	21 minutes and 12 seconds

The reality is these are just averages. We know of [stories](#) where people have had to wait for many hours just to speak to someone.

PROCESSING TIMES

Age pension and carers payment median processing times by Centrelink have dramatically increased.

PROCESSING TIME INCREASES

Payment type	2016-17	2017-18 as at 31 March
Age pension	36 days	49 days
Carers payments	28 days	47 days

The median times data does not take into account instances when Centrelink requests further information, which can further delay the approval process. In reality, pensioners are waiting for [many more months](#) for their age pension.

GOVERNMENT CAN'T BE TRUSTED WITH CENTRELINK DEBT RECOVERY- Burney

Media reports have revealed updated figures on the Government's debt recovery efforts.

We will never be confident about the accuracy of these debts and the Turnbull Government's first priority should be to clean up its calculations, and demonstrate the integrity of those calculations.

We know that many people pay back Centrelink debts whether they believe they are accurate or not, because they are simply **too afraid to challenge** the system.

People don't trust the Turnbull Government on Centrelink debt recovery because it's not genuinely interested in strengthening the integrity of our social safety net.

The Turnbull Government treats Centrelink debt recovery as a budget balancing measure – a means to frighten and discourage vulnerable people from claiming income support.

We know that the vast majority of people who receive income support do the right thing.

Recovered debts make up less than 0.01% of Centrelink payments.

The vast majority of people who have been overpaid, have done so **inadvertently and without fraudulent intent**.

That's why it's important that the Government ensures that these people are provided with reasonable options and arrangements for the repayment of their debts.

PRIVACY BREACH SHOWS THAT CENTRELINK IS IN CRISIS UNDER TURNBULL- Burney

Media reports of a Centrelink privacy breach in Melbourne is further evidence that Centrelink is in crisis under the Turnbull Government.

According to reports, Michelle Piefke was given a number of documents after visiting a Centrelink office in Boronia in Melbourne. The documents contained highly sensitive information including bank details, residential addresses and signatures.

It is equally concerning that the Centrelink client whose form was misplaced may not have received their payment.

Centrelink clients can expect long wait times on the phone and busy signals. The online platform can be difficult to navigate.

This is a result of the Turnbull Government's cuts to Centrelink including axing 1,280 staff.

The Minister for Human Services, Michael Keenan has questions to answer over this privacy breach.

He needs to say whether the affected individual has been advised of the unauthorised disclosure of their information.

Mr Keenan must confirm whether the affected Centrelink client has received their payment. If not, what is being done to ensure their payment is received? Has the affected individual's payment been delayed? If so, by how long?

How prevalent are leaks of this kind at Centrelink?

In [September last year](#), it was revealed that the Australian Tax Office had concerns about the integrity of Medicare cards as use as proof of identification.

It was reported that Medicare card details had been sold on the dark web.

Centrelink is in crisis under the Turnbull Government.

STUDENT WAIT FOR CENTRELINK SHOCKING BUT NOT SURPRISING – Burney

The story of a student who is still waiting for his Centrelink payment for over three months is shocking but not surprising.

26 year old student Alex was told that the estimated completion date for his application for Austudy was 2 April, some 12 weeks ago.

The Department says that as "at 15 June 2018, the median claim processing time for **Austudy claims** was **22 days**, for **Youth Allowance Student claims** was **28 days** and for **ABSTUDY claims** was **18 days**."

The reality is that the median times don't even take into account instances when Centrelink requests further information, which can further delay the approval process.

Alex's story shows that students like him are waiting many more months than the median data suggests.

With any hope, Alex's application will be approved and he will receive back pay.

But until then, Alex is living anxiously on the edge of his bank account while he waits for Centrelink to resolve his claim.

This not only affects the student, this will also affect their family and immediate support networks.

The story comes as age pensioners and carers are waiting longer to have their payments approved by Centrelink.

Age pension and carers payment median processing times by Centrelink have dramatically increased.

PROCESSING TIME INCREASES		
Payment type	2016-17	2017-18 as at 31 March
Age pension	36 days	49 days
Carers payments	28 days	47 days

We understand that income support payments can be complex. That's why it's so important that Centrelink has permanent full time staff who are supported, familiar and skilled to manage the often complex issues facing income support recipients.

At this year's budget, the Turnbull Government cut a further 1,280 jobs from Centrelink.

These job cuts will only make it more difficult to access Centrelink.

Meanwhile, the Turnbull Government has outsourced 1,250 jobs to labour hire. This Government is selling Centrelink jobs piece by piece. The Turnbull Government is simply trying to make it so difficult for Australians to claim income support in the hope they just give up.

ANOTHER DAY AND ANOTHER BUDGET CUT HURTING FAMILIES- Rishworth/Chesters

With only a weekend remaining before the Turnbull Government's unfair changes to child care take effect – changes which will leave one in four families worse off – comes another budget slash and burn from the Liberals.

In a further blow for families, next week funding expires for the National Occasional Care Program leaving families across rural and regional Australia without flexible care arrangements.

The National Occasional Care Program is a national program between the Commonwealth and some state governments to provide seasonal and sessional care in areas where child care centres are in low supply or unviable. It commenced in 2014 under the Abbott Government.

Cutting this funding will see 143 providers in Victoria alone without critical funding to support those families who rely on this service.

The National Occasional Care Program allows parents to participate in a range of day to day activities, including work, study, respite or medical appointments.

Without critical funding to these providers they cannot be guaranteed to provide occasional care to the families who require it most.

This is another kick in the guts to rural and regional families, with funding to mobile early childhood services forcing to shut up shop under the Turnbull Government's unfair child care package.

Yet again, Nationals MPs have been completely silent on this cut, which will leave families in their communities worse off.

The Turnbull Government would rather prioritise \$80 billion tax handout for the big banks than supporting rural and regional families.

NO RELIEF IN SIGHT FOR FAMILIES - Rishworth

Reports this week that families are about to be hit with massive child care fee increases confirm once again the Turnbull Government is big on rhetoric and spin, but poor on delivery and substance.

Simon Birmingham has been telling families they will all be better off under the Liberals new system, even telling them;

"...our hourly fee cap will put downward pressure on prices..." [Simon Birmingham, 29 October, 2017](#)



Not only is there not an hourly cap on fees under the Turnbull Government's unfair child care changes, the subsidy is destined to be swallowed up in higher fees.

The Government's new system will pay a subsidy – after families jump through the government's activity and means test hoops – based on a benchmark price. So any fee rises above the benchmark price will have to be paid straight out of families hip pockets.

This is a further blow to families who are doing it tough. Since the Liberals were elected families are paying, on average, over \$2,160 more in fees.

Even under the new system, the Department's figures show fees are projected to keep going up 6 per cent a year.

This is on top of the 279,000 families who will be worse off under the Turnbull Government's unfair child care package which kicks off in just over a week. One

in four families will be left to face child care fee hikes with less support from government.

Of course, this week we learned almost 24 per cent of families have yet to bother to register for the new system – and why would they, when this government has turned its back on them.

It's no wonder families are looking for relief by enrolling children in preschool and kindy.

Simon Birmingham said that was a problem for the states and territories to worry about, and called on them to fund two years of preschool. The Minister is showing some front when he refuses to properly commit to the national program for universal access to preschool.

The facts are that under the Turnbull Government many families:

- have less access to early learning,
- are paying more than ever for early learning and face endless fee hikes, and
- face uncertainty about whether their preschools and kindies will be funded after next year.

NEW EVIDENCE FOR ROYAL COMMISSION INTO ABUSE OF DISABLED – Macklin/Brown

ABC's Background Briefing has revealed that one person with a disability is killed by their carer every three months in Australia.

People with disability report experiencing abuse at almost twice the rate of other Australians. Yet many instances of carer abuse are excused or explained away.

The evidence of violence and abuse is extensive and compelling and the issue is systemic.

ABC's Background Briefing episode is an important reminder that much more needs to be done to address violence and abuse against people with disability.

People with disability, their families and advocates have been urging the Government to act.

They want to see a Royal Commission to bring about systemic change to ensure that this horrific abuse is put to an end.

A Shorten Labor Government will establish a Royal Commission into violence and abuse against people with disability.

Last year 163 community groups including St Vincent de Paul Society, Anglicare and Amnesty International all called on the Turnbull Government to establish a Royal Commission.

It is deeply disappointing to see that the Turnbull Government continues to rule this out.

The continued abuse of Australians with disability by people demands a Royal Commission.



THE STORY OF FRANCIS - All charges dropped against our NDIS client Francis- Patrick McGee



We are heartened that all charges have been withdrawn against our young client Francis.

'This is a sensible outcome after a long and troubling pathway into the criminal justice system' said Rowan McRae, Executive Director of Civil Justice Access and Equity.

'Francis' example shows how fragile access to supports under the National Disability Insurance Scheme is for people living with complex disabilities, and how easy it is to wind up in prison when disability supports are not available', said Ms McRae.

NDIS-funded disability service providers withdrew services from Francis, who has an intellectual disability and autism. He ended up spending a total of 180 days in custody because there was nowhere suitable for him to go on release. He was isolated from other prisoners, spending any time outside his cell in handcuffs.

'For someone as young and vulnerable as Francis, who had never been to prison before, it was clearly the wrong place for him to be and a lack of support services kept him there for far too long', said Lucy Geddes, Francis' lawyer.

Experts predicted market failure under the NDIS from its early days, with agreement that once the NDIS was 'up and running', a framework to intervene when the market failed would be set up. This framework has not been set up. It was only through extraordinary efforts and advocacy from VLA and other important advocates that the

Victorian Government intervened, leading to the delivery of a tailored support plan for Francis.

'Due to the publicity about Francis, we have heard about dozens of similar cases around the country, where gaps in the NDIS are leading to very vulnerable people becoming homeless or spiralling into the criminal justice system,' said Ms McRae.

Francis' case shows clearly that a 'provider of last resort' framework needs to be set up to prevent these situations from occurring in the future.

The Victorian government took the initiative and found solutions for Francis, but we know that for many people with complex needs or in regional areas, when the NDIS market fails, no one is required to take responsibility.

Victoria Legal Aid is continuing its call for governments to work together and establish a clear and reliable framework which will ensure that NDIS participants have access to their funded disability supports when the market fails.

'What happened to Francis is happening to others and action must be taken now to make sure there is a safety net in place for people in these vulnerable situations' said Ms McRae.

WORKERS

LABOR INTRODUCES BILL TO PROTECT PENALTY RATES – O'Connor

The Leader of the Opposition, Bill Shorten today introduced a Bill to protect penalty rates, which will be cut this July, next July and the July after that.

Labor's Bill – the Fair Work Amendment (Restoring penalty Rates) Bill would stop the cuts to penalty rates and ensure they can never be cut again.

Stopping the cuts to penalty rates could be easy if only Malcolm Turnbull and his Liberals dropped their disregard for workers and joined Labor to bring this bill on for a vote and to vote for it.

But they won't because they want Australians to get a pay cut.

This government has had eight opportunities in the parliament to protect penalty rates and they have voted against protecting them eight times. This is a slap in the face for low paid workers, who this weekend, on July 1 will have their penalty rates cut again. This time the cuts will be even deeper.

It's a cruel irony that at a time when wages growth has hit record lows, and in the week this government is trying to give big business an \$80 billion tax cut, Malcolm Turnbull is doing nothing to stop a pay cut for workers.

Penalty rates are not a luxury, they are what puts food on the table and pays the bills.

It is clear that the only way to protect penalty rates is to elect a Shorten Labor Government.

ESSO WORKPLACE DISPUTE REACHES ONE YEAR – O'Connor



This week marks the one year anniversary since the contractual maintenance workers at ESSO have been fighting for fair pay and conditions in their protracted workplace dispute.

Following ESSO's decision to award their maintenance contract to UGL, these workers were sacked and then offered their jobs back with 30per cent less pay and worse working conditions.

The new agreement they were offered was voted on by just 5 casual workers in Western Australia, despite the majority of the workforce being on the other side of the country. When it comes to the gaming of the industrial relations system, which is undermining wages and conditions, the Turnbull Government has been silent. This government is too focussed on further eroding wages growth through their support for cutting penalty

rates, while giving an \$80 billion tax cut to big business.

Labor believes that collective bargaining should not be able to be undermined by sham enterprise agreements.

A Shorten Labor Government will change the law to ensure that the workers who vote on an agreement must be representative of the workers who may ultimately be covered by that agreement.

Labor will also give workers and their unions the right to apply to the Fair Work Commission to re-negotiate sham enterprise agreements.

Turnbull and his Liberals have not taken any action that improves the bargaining position of employees relative to employers

In fact, they are so out of touch, they have actively encouraged employers to engage in tactics to game the fair work laws and cut workers' wages and conditions.

Australians deserve a government that understands that the challenges in Australia's labour market and workplaces are real and puts people's wellbeing above corporate profits.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT REVIEW FALLS SHORT

The Turnbull Government's review of the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act fails to address the deep structural problems within the vocational education system.

While Labor welcomes Professor Valerie Braithwaite's partial review, it was severely limited by the Turnbull Government's narrow terms of reference.

This is why a Shorten Labor government will establish a once in a generation Inquiry into post-secondary education within 100 days of being elected.

Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Apprenticeships Senator Doug Cameron said Labor's comprehensive Inquiry will ensure the sector best meets the needs of both students and the economy.

Mr Cameron said Professor Braithwaite's report correctly calls for improved regulation and better safeguards for student outcomes.

However, he said the fundamental design of the system is flawed and no amount of regulatory tweaking will ensure quality student outcomes.

The number of students attending TAFE has collapsed due to the Liberal's funding cuts and unhealthy competition from for profit providers accessing government subsidies.

The Liberal's record on vocational education is abysmal with cuts of more than \$3 billion from skills and apprenticeships.

If elected, a Shorten Labor Government will:

- Conduct a thorough Inquiry into Australia's post-secondary education system
- Scrap upfront fees for 100,000 TAFE students who choose to learn the skills that Australia needs
- Invest \$100 million in modernising TAFE facilities around the country
- Guarantee at least two out of three Commonwealth training dollars goes to TAFE
- Ensure one in every ten jobs on Commonwealth priority projects are filled by Australians apprentices
- Provide 10,000 pre-apprentice programs for young people who want to learn a trade
- Provide 20,000 adult apprentice programs for older workers who need to retrain

STOP HIDING FROM DOUBTS ABOUT PATH PROGRAM – Husic

The over hyped PaTH intern program seems to be following the worrying trajectory of many other Turnbull government jobs programs.

Questions are being raised about the PaTH program's protection of young jobseekers exploitation and unsafe work practices.

An FOI document related to the Turnbull Government's Youth Jobs PaTH program reinforces these concerns.

Despite Turnbull Government assurances that there are safeguards in place for those participating in the program, this document sheds light on a wide range of problems with their Youth Jobs PaTH program.

Taking into account that Labor has been raising the risks of this program since 2016 the problems raised by this document shows that the Turnbull government does not take the safety of vulnerable young Australians seriously.

In addition to safety related instances there are multiple complaints of delays in paperwork completion, useless training and non-payment of participants entitled to incentive payments.

The document cites instances of:

- Sexual harassment where a trainer invited two participants on an "overnight excursion" where participants felt there were "inappropriate intentions".
- Women being criticised about their physical appearance.
- No consideration of people with mental and physical disabilities.
- Unacceptable working conditions.
- Jobseekers turning up for compulsory meeting, waiting an hour and then being told their consultant would not be attending.

Minister Michaelia Cash assured us: ***"The department of jobs and small business closely monitors all internship placements to ensure program requirements are met."***

But in Senate Estimates the Department talked at length about the safeguards in places for these young jobseekers, while in the same discussion about how little data they collect about Youth PaTH experiences:

"We don't collect information on the hours that they work"

"I wouldn't have that data in front of me"

"I don't have figures."

Enough is enough. The Turnbull Government must fix their unsafe and exploitative Youth Jobs PaTH program.



CROSS-EXAMINATION REFORM – WHERE IS THE FUNDING? Plibersek/Dreyfus/Terri Butler

Labor welcomes the government's belated announcement that it will introduce legislation to prevent domestic violence victims from being cross-examined by their abusers.

This awful practice has been allowed to go on for far too long, giving perpetrators the chance to re-traumatise their victims through the court system.

The government has been incredibly slow to act on calls for reform – it's four years since the Productivity Commission called for this change to happen and nearly two years since COAG called for the cross-examination of victims to be eliminated.

In November 2016, Labor announced its policy for cross-examination reform which included \$43 million for Legal Aid to take on the representation of unrepresented perpetrators.

Legal Aid lawyers are already stretched to their absolute limit. Under the government's proposals, they must now also take on unrepresented perpetrators when directed or requested to do so by a judge. There is no way this extra workload can be taken on without extra funding.

Mr Porter needs to explain how he expects Legal Aid to meet this extra demand without any extra funding, and should detail the consultation he has had with the sector on this issue.

It is incredibly important that this overdue change is given the resources necessary for it to work. Domestic violence victims can wait no longer.

ENERGY POLICY

NEW COAL DELUSION MUST BE STAMPED OUT – Mark Butler

The meeting of industry leaders with the Coalition's backbench energy committee must dispel the Government's hard right fantasy of building new coal-fired power stations.

Dr Kerry Schott, chair of the Energy Security Board, has said *"there would be absolutely no way that anybody would be financing a new coal-fired generation plant," because "the cost of coal is always going to be more than the cost of wind and sun."*



The Australian Energy Council has called new coal "uninvestable" and said *"the industry has no plans to start building new coal-fired power stations."*

The big three energy companies have been clear they will not invest in new coal:

"The first thing I would say about that is coal is a legacy technology, it's a solution that my grandfather would have built" – Catherine Tanna, EnergyAustralia.

"We do not believe that any private capital will invest in new coal plants" – Andy Veseey, AGL.

"It's unlikely we'd be an investor in coal," – Frank Calabria, Origin.

Even the Prime Minister's favourite energy project, Snowy 2.0, is only viable if more renewables come into the system, and is made more viable as more old coal retires. Paul Broad, CEO of Snowy Hydro has said *"From our perspective (new coal) doesn't stack up."*

As long as the Turnbull Government is at war with the future as well as with itself, Australians can expect continued energy chaos, and rising pollution.

Australia's energy transformation will be centred on the cheapest generation: renewables and storage, including batteries, pumped hydro, gas peaking plants and demand management. It will not include new coal-fired power stations.

Only Labor has a plan to encourage investment in renewables, which will put downward pressure on power prices, create jobs and drive down pollution.

HEALTH

HEALTH INSURANCE COMPLAINTS SOAR AS TURNBULL DITHERS –Chalmers/King

Complaints about private health insurance have soared and more Australians are choosing to downgrade or ditch their cover in response to relentless price rises, unexpected out-of-pocket costs and growing exclusions.

The latest ACCC report into private health insurance paints a grim picture of the industry – with complaints up for a fourth consecutive year by another 30per cent.

The ACCC report confirms that the affordability of private health insurance is second only to electricity prices in terms of cost-of-living concerns. It's no wonder then that people are downgrading to cheaper policies with more exclusions and restrictions – or in many cases leaving the market altogether.

And exclusions continue to rise. As the report notes, in June 2017 40per cent of hospital policies held had exclusions, compared with 38 per cent in June 2016. There was also an increase in hospital policies with an excess or co-payment over the same period – from 82 per cent to 83 per cent.

Labor backs the ACCC's calls for the industry to make its products more consumer friendly by providing more reliable and transparent information about product features and changes to policies – including details of gaps.

Malcolm Turnbull and Greg Hunt meanwhile are merely tinkering at the edges, failing to address the real problems with the industry or deliver any meaningful reduction in prices.

Under the Liberals, premiums have increased by 27 per cent since 2014 – costing families an average \$1,000 more. Meanwhile, the insurers remain extremely profitable, which figures released earlier this year showed private health insurer profits are up yet again and they're pocketing \$3.7 billion more than they're paying out in benefits.

Unlike Turnbull's health insurance "reforms" – which were designed by the industry itself and resulted in a double-inflation price rise this year – Labor's policies will deliver tangible benefits to ordinary Australian families.

Labor will cap premium price increases at 2 per cent for two years, delivering families an average saving of \$340 and shifting the balance back in the favour of consumers rather than company executives.

We will also task the Productivity Commission with a sweeping review to identify long-term sustainable ways to bring down costs and improve quality.

GOVT MUST DELIVER ACTION NOT HEADLINES FOR EATING DISORDERS- Collins/O'Neill **The Turnbull Government must turn words into action and deliver on previous commitments to provide new support for Australians living with eating disorders.**

This week, we had Minister Hunt yet again signalling a new Medicare item for Australians living with eating disorders. This is not something new. In May 2017, Minister Hunt recommended the Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce investigate options for Medicare coverage for the treatment needs of those living with an eating disorder.

Nearly one year later, the Medicare Task Force Clinical Committee finally met for the first time to look into this. Last month at Budget Estimates the Department of Health could not even confirm that a new Medicare item was being considered

Just a few weeks ago Minister Hunt announced a three year trial for those on the Sunshine Coast living with an eating disorder.

It has a projected completion date of 30 May 2021 and the results are expected to be used by the Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce. How can we trust Minister Hunt's re-announcement today?

It is difficult to take Minister Hunt's repeated commitments on this issue seriously when real action continues to be delayed.

Labor remains concerned the Government continues to over promise and under deliver in relation to supporting all Australians with eating disorder treatments.

The more than one million Australian men and women who live with an eating disorder and their loved ones are looking for real action, not just words or headlines.

**** Anyone needing support with eating disorders or body image issues is encouraged to contact Butterfly's National Helpline on 1800 ED HOPE (33 4673). For urgent support, call Lifeline 13 11 14 ****



LABOR PROTECTS CHARITIES – Leigh

The bipartisan Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security has today handed down its report on the Foreign Interference Transparency Scheme Bill 2017, recommending that charities be excluded.

These recommendations reflect Labor's strong engagement with and commitment to charities.

Labor said we would protect the work of our trusted Australian charities and their right to participate vocally in our democracy.

We clearly understood the uncertainty and the disquiet generated by the range of government bills addressing foreign influence on our political system.

We listened closely to the sector, heard about the important charitable work that was in jeopardy, and worked hard to protect it while not compromising the important transparency measures that are intended by the Bill.

Labor has always supported Australia's charities and not-for-profits – and we always will.

COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE CHARITY FUNDRAISING LAW REFORM- Dreyfus

Senator for Tasmania, Catryna Bilyk, welcomed her appointment as Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century and said she was looking forward to the Committee's inquiry.

"The Committee will be looking closely at the current regulatory framework for charity fundraising, in particular the costs for charities of trying to comply with seven different regimes when fundraising across Australia," Senator Bilyk said.

"The Committee will also look at how Federal, State and Territory governments can work together to provide charities with a nationally consistent, contemporary and fit-for-purpose fundraising regime.

"While anyone can make a submission to the Committee, I would welcome submissions from the Commonwealth, the states and territories, and from any charities that are affected by these laws."

There has been growing pressure from the not-for-profit sector to reform the regulatory framework for fundraising in Australia, culminating in Justice Connect's #fixfundraising campaign.

"A nationally consistent framework of course has to be one that protects Australians from scammers and fake charities—a problem which costs each Australian an average of \$4 a year—while also reducing the paperwork and reporting duplication for genuine charities," Senator Bilyk said. "Reducing duplication was the aim of Labor's Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission. We need to take a look at whether further reform is needed for the ACNC to fulfil this purpose.

"Our hard-working charity sector needs a regulatory framework that works with them, not against them."

Terms of Reference:

1. whether the current framework of fundraising regulation creates unnecessary problems for charities and organisations who rely on donations from Australian supporters;

2. whether current fundraising laws meet the objectives that guided the decision to regulate donations;
3. whether current fundraising compliance regimes allow charities to cultivate donor activity and make optimal use of resources donors provide;
4. the loss in productivity for the thousands of charities who try to meet the requirements of the seven different fundraising regimes;
5. whether the current frameworks for investigation and enforcement are the best model for the contemporary fundraising environment;
6. how Federal, State and Territory governments could work together to provide charities with a nationally consistent, contemporary and fit-for-purpose fundraising regime;
7. the appropriate donor-focused expectations and requirements that should govern fundraising regulation in the 21st century;
8. how the Australian Consumer Law should apply to not-for-profit fundraising activities;
9. what are the best mechanisms to regulate third party fundraisers and to ensure the culture of third party fundraisers matches community perceptions of the clients they work with;
10. could a harmonised, contemporary fundraising regime help in addressing concerns about the potential influence of foreign money on civil society and political debate in Australia;
11. the cost to the charity and not-for-profit sector, and the communities they serve, of postponing fundraising reform; and
12. any other related matters.

CITIZENSHIP

LABOR VOTES TO DISALLOW INCREASE IN FEES - Burke

This week Labor voted to disallow the Government's cruel removal of a discount for pensioners, veterans, and widows who normally pay \$20 or \$40 for citizenship applications instead of \$285.

The successful disallowance means that pensioners, widows, and veterans will still be eligible for the discount and therefore are protected from the Liberal Party's cruel attempt at preventing them from becoming citizens.

Just like the proposed changes to the racial discrimination act, the university level English language test for citizenship, cruel proposed changes to Assurance of Support requirements, this is yet another attack on hardworking families who have migrated to Australia.

The Turnbull Government is seeking to create a permanent underclass of non-citizens living in Australia and creating yet another unnecessary hurdle for migrant families to jump through before being settled.

Labor wants to encourage people to apply for citizenship, to make a pledge of commitment to this country, and to be welcomed to Australia.

LIBERAL PARTY CONTINUES RACE HATE RHETORIC- Burke/Dreyfus

A Liberal Senator has made clear that the Liberal Party will continue its fight to allow more racist hate speech in Australia.

AMANDA STOKER: "I think 18C has got to go. I think 18C is a drag on our society". - SKY NEWS, MONDAY, 25 JUNE 2018

Malcolm Turnbull continues to be held hostage by the far right of his own party. The Prime Minister must show authority and leadership on this extremely important issue.



This is just another attack by the Liberal Party to water down protections against racist hate speech. In 2016 Liberal Senator Anne Ruston called for race hate laws to be repealed. In 2014 Liberal Senator George Brandis said 'people do have a right to be bigots'.

It is clear that section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act is an obsession of the Liberal Party that they refuse to give up – despite trying twice to abolish it. Senator Stoker has clearly not learned the lessons of the past.

Labor is proud of Australia's multicultural society, and believes every Australian deserves the right to live free from racial and ethnic vilification. Modern Australia and multicultural Australia are the same thing. We will continue to fight for important protections against racial hate speech in Australia – we have done it twice now and

won, and we will do it again if necessary.

Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act has served Australia well for more than two decades. The only outcome from repealing section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act will be more hate speech. This rhetoric is unacceptable.

Malcolm Turnbull must distance himself from these comments and restate the Government's position on 18C.

INNOVATION

REPORT OFFERS CHANCE TO REVIVE GOVT DIGITAL DISASTER – O'Connor/Husic

Labor welcomes the release of the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee's report into government digital transformation. Against a backdrop of repeated digital project setbacks, the report provides a worrying insight into the way digital transformation is led and managed within government.

Over a number of hearings the Committee exposed that there is currently a lack of coordination, a lack of performance measures and a lack of leadership across government digital projects.

The Committee also exposed there is no tracking of the cost of consultants and contractors in relation to major projects and for business as usual spending.

Given the \$10bn investment in technology -rivalling our investment in public schooling – the government needs to do better.

The Committee report also sets out eight considered and practical recommendations on how to improve the delivery of government digital transformation.

The key report recommendations are:

- that key digital performance measures shared and reported across departments and agencies
- that user experience is prioritised
- that the quality of service to the public is valued better
- that the government deliver an annual Ministerial Statement on Digital Transformation progress to improve digital transformation
- to institute a regular timetable to independently audit ICT contracting and subcontracting arrangements
- that departments examine project budgets to identify and eliminate unnecessary spend on contractors, consultants and external vendors
- that the Australian Public Service Commissioner develop a whole-of-government Australian Public Sector Information and Communications Technology career stream
- that the government routinely report on how it intends to lift the number of digital apprentices and trainees that it is currently recruiting into the public service
- that the DTA be tasked with developing education and training initiatives to enhance the digital competency of all APS employees
- These will require improved and genuine cooperation across government - particularly at the most senior levels of government.

It's vital that digital transformation becomes a core focus across government and not quarantined to one agency as a "niche pursuit", milked for media announcements and scapegoated for failure.

If the Turnbull Government is serious about digital transformation it will show some leadership by setting out a whole-of-government vision underpinned by key digital performance measures.

In particular the Minister must respond to the report and reassure the millions of Australians that interact with government platforms that they, and not IT budget savings, are the government's priority.

LABOR TO ESTABLISH NBN SERVICE GUARANTEE – Rowland/Jones

Labor will deliver a better experience for NBN consumers with a plan to establish an NBN Service Guarantee that will set regulated timeframes and wholesale service standards for:

- Fault rectification
- Installations
- Missed appointments

The NBN Service Guarantee will be enforced through financial penalties that will apply if service standards are not met.

To properly safeguard consumers, penalties will increase in response to excessive downtime, with appropriate compensation caps to apply.

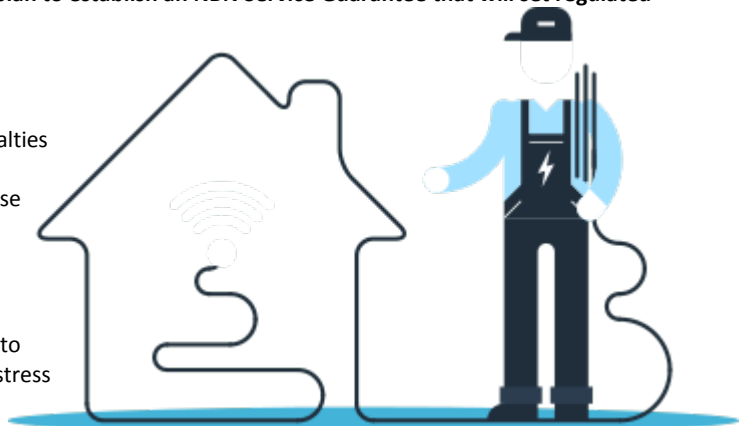
If NBNCo doesn't meet these standards they'll be liable and the impacted consumer will be fairly compensated – it's that simple.

A Shorten Labor Government will also establish stronger penalties to protect small businesses on the NBN, because we understand the stress and financial harm caused by the loss of telephone or internet services.

This policy builds on the strong advocacy of consumer groups, and the initiative of the ACCC in instigating an inquiry into wholesale service standards, despite the ongoing apathy of the Turnbull Government.

Labor will also expand the remit of the ACCC under this policy to ensure there is a single line of oversight for NBN wholesale standards and the retail pass through.

These reforms have been designed to target underlying incentive structures that too often leave Australians stuck in a frustrating blame game, with no-one willing to take responsibility. Our policy will make NBN more accountable to retail providers, so that retail providers can in turn be more accountable to their customers. We will place the consumers back at the centre and give them fair rights – that is what Labor Governments do. Labor in government will work with the ACCC, NBNCo, ACMA and other key stakeholders to set appropriate penalty amounts. Having more uptime, less downtime, and greater accountability is an important step towards delivering a better NBN for all Australians.



THE FARM



FROM MACCAS TO PARK BENCH

We saw the debacle of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) being [run out of Maccas](#) in Armidale.

Now, Barnaby Joyce's second big pork barrel has found its home on a park bench in Orange.

The \$28 million Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) is being set up to do what the States already do. It is supposed to open on July 1 but when newly appointed Board members gathered in Orange yesterday, [they met in a park](#).

With eight sleeps to go, the RIC has no home and no staff. Yet the Government is still saying "we are on track to kick off on the first of July".

Even locals in Orange think it's a waste of money ([see poll](#)).

Orange was chosen for this pork barrelling exercise when the Nats lost the State seat for the first time in 69 years.

Both the APVMA (costing at least \$50 million) and the RIC decisions were done with Malcolm Turnbull's full approval. [It's time he stopped the madness.](#)

ANAO REPORT REALISES DEEP CONCERNS FOR OUR VETERANS

The release of the ANAO's Report today into the [Efficiency of Veterans Service Delivery by the Department of Veterans' Affairs](#) highlights the problems many veterans still face when dealing with the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Disappointingly, the ANAO's report confirmed our veterans are still facing excessive wait times and inefficient service – and some veterans are falling through the cracks as a result.

The ANAO's report concluded;

- Whilst the majority of rehabilitation and compensation services are being delivered within timeframes, a minority of claims take an excessively long period to process due to inefficient handling.
- There are weaknesses in DVA's systems and processes which are an obstacle to the efficient delivery of services.
- DVA has a focus on monitoring the median and average time to process claims across all claims – rather than a focus on meeting the needs of veterans.
- For claims with a high processing time, the audit found this was due to associated 'inactivity' (delays in the actioning of a claim despite the presence of required information) and medical reviews.
- DVA should improve its oversight of the progress of individual claims through the processing lifecycle, and its management of medical service provision.
- The monitoring and reporting of claims is not effective in alerting management to those which are at risk of taking excessive time to process.
- High error rates continue, despite an internal report in 2014 which determined that incapacity testing reveals a high error rate due to a failure to follow the approved national procedures and supplied checklists. Four years later, this is consistent with the ANAO findings demonstrating that DVA have been unable to reverse this concerning trend.
-

Of deep concern in the ANAO report was the excessive waiting times, which highlighted;

"The ANAO observed one claim in its testing that was effectively 'lost' between Registration and assignment to the relevant processing area for 183 days and was not detected by governance processes." - P. 28

"In one claim reviewed a period of 66 days elapsed between assignment to a delegate and an initial request for medical information. There was no activity recorded in the file for this period. Later, for the same claim, there was an 82 day period where no activity was recorded between receipt of the medical information and the request for the impairment assessment from the CMA. In effect, the claim appears to have taken 148 days longer to process than would have been the case had action been taken expeditiously." - P.47

These examples shine a light on some of the circumstances our veterans face when dealing with DVA.

When the department has three Ministers in the space of three months, it is no wonder DVA has found it hard to get its job done.

The Minister must respond to the ANAO report and reassure the veterans' community that they, and not manipulating the average wait time, are the government's priority.

RIGHTS



SENATE INQUIRY TO LOOK INTO DOWRY ABUSE IN AUSTRALIA – Pratt/Hill

Labor has successfully established the Senate Inquiry into the practice and incidence of dowry abuse in Australia.

This Senate Inquiry will provide a transparent and thorough investigation into the practice and the prevalence of dowry in Australia as well as its potential links to family violence.

Julian Hill raised concerns in Parliament in May saying "Women are not property; cultural or religious practices that suggest so are not welcome in Australia. I believe the practice of dowry is completely inappropriate in modern Australia.

“Dowry perpetuates a culture of ownership of women, which runs against the cause of equality. Dowry extortion has been recognised as a direct cause of family violence and horrific murders and suicides. Alarming growth in reports has been seen in certain communities.

“The Victorian Government has led the way in Australia with its commitment to implement the 2016 recommendation of the Royal Commission into Family Violence to expand statutory examples of family violence to include forced marriage and dowry-related abuse.

“Legislation is now before the Victorian Parliament and its time we examined the need for a comprehensive national response to dowry and dowry abuse.”

This Senate Inquiry will allow the committee to speak to members of the community and peak body organisations.

The Chair of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee Senator Louise Pratt said “the practice of requiring dowries can result in abuse and have devastating impacts on women and their families. Despite laws prohibiting it in Australia, we know this practice still exists.

We therefore need to take a fresh look at what needs to be done to stop dowry abuse, so it’s vital that we have as many submissions as possible to explore dowry-related abuse in Australia.”

The Senate Inquiry is open for public submissions and will provide dates for upcoming public hearings with a final report due back to the Senate on Thursday 6 December, 2018.

Labor looks forward to the outcomes of this important inquiry.

LABOR DEMANDS STRONG SLAVERY LAWS – O’Neill

Labor is pleased by the news that the Modern Slavery Bill is set to be introduced into the Parliament today. We have been campaigning for this important reform for over a year, and we are pleased to see the Government finally taking action on this important issue.

But we are deeply disappointed at the absence of any penalties for companies that breach an Australian Modern Slavery Act. We shouldn’t be leaving it to business to police themselves on slavery.

We are also baffled by the Government’s decision to set up a Business Engagement Unit to “support businesses”, rather than an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to help victims. Labor wants an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner so that we can help the estimated thousands of victims of slavery right here in Australia, right now.

An optional scheme with no oversight is an enormous disappointment. If we want to tackle slavery, then Australia needs a law that will actually do something to fight the problem – and that requires penalties and an Independent Commissioner. Once again, the Liberals have shown themselves as being only for the top end of town.

Victims of slavery deserve better than the Government’s weak proposal. Labor will be fighting for penalties and an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

NEW SHADOW MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS



Senator Glenn Sterle
Appointment as
Shadow Assistant Minister for Road Safety



Terri Butler
Shadow Assistant Minister for Universities, Shadow Assistant Minister for Equality. Appointment as Shadow Assistant Minister for Young Australians And Youth Affairs



Madeleine King
Shadow Minister Assisting for Resources, Shadow Minister Assisting for Small Business.
Appointment as Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs



Linda Burney
Shadow Minister for Human Services
Appointment as Shadow Minister for Preventing Family Violence



Clare O’Neil
Shadow Minister for Financial Services
Shadow Minister for Justice
Appointment as Shadow Minister for Financial Services



Chris Bowen
Will add Small Business to his portfolios.
Julie Owens will continue to assist Chris as
Shadow Assistant Minister for Small Business.



Jacinta Collins
Appointed as manager of Opposition Business in the Centre



Our Rainbow House Car Raffle 2018

Win a 2018 Hyundai Tucson SUV



\$20 per ticket



Closing Date—Monday 5th November, 2018

Draw Date—Tuesday 6th November, 2018

Prize Winner will be contacted by Phone and Mail

**Visit www.ourrainbowhouse.org.au/car-raffle-2018/ for
Terms and Conditions**

The ABC is under attack as never before

The May Budget has inflicted a further cut of \$84 million on the ABC

Also a \$43m cut for news-gathering is planned

These come on top of \$254m in funding cuts since 2014 and nearly 1,000 ABC jobs lost

The Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) is pressing for the sale of the ABC to the Private Sector

The Hanson-Turnbull pact has led to five inquiries into the ABC, designed to curb its independence

The Murdoch camp continue with their relentless assault on the ABC

Call to Arms

The future of strong and independent public broadcasting in Australia is at stake.

Well-funded and independent public broadcasting is essential to keep citizens informed and to hold government and powerful organisations to account.

Think of the work that *Four Corners* does. Think *Background Briefing*, *Science Show*, *Late Night Live*, the music – we all have our favourites.

Together we can prevail over politicians and others who are hostile to an independent, well-funded national broadcaster and prevent a weakened or, even worse, an ABC sold-off to the highest bidder.



Crowd Funding Campaign

We are urgently seeking your contributions to our very visible National Campaign. To donate to our cause, please CLICK:

<https://www.ozcrowd.com/campaign/4337>

Rally Brisbane – July 13

11.30am - Beside ABC Bldg, Russell St, S. Brisbane

All Rallies will feature prominent supporters of National Broadcasting. Details soon.

Join the Fight

Write to newspapers - Ring or Visit your Federal Member – We can help with this - Attend our Rallies - Volunteer to help our cause

Margaret Reynolds,
National President, ABC Friends

2018 Fairfax FEC Stimulus Raffle

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

But we can only do it with your support!

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

\$500 cash

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

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

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

Application to purchase

Name:	
Phone:	
Email:	
No. of tickets:	

(Please consider purchasing a book of 5 tickets)

Please send you application to the Treasurer, Coleen Giles at ripplemaker@bigpond.com.au or call 0407 767 182

Please make your deposit to
Account Name: ALP Fairfax FEC
BSB: 064-424
Account no.: 00909099
Reference: Surname & stimulus eg. 'Smith Stimulus'



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

Dr Denis Murphy Memorial Dinner

and is pleased to announce our keynote speaker

Hon. Kevin Rudd

Former Prime Minister of Australia
President, Asia Society Political Institute

Saturday 21st July 2018

at

Maroochy Waterfront Conference Centre

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

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

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

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

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

Please mention any dietary requirements when booking

Payment required at time of booking by direct debit. For alternate payment methods please contact Coleen.

Direct deposit: BSB 064 424 A/c 00909099

Account name: ALP of Qld Fairfax FEC

Please use your last name and DDMMD as reference and email bank receipt to Coleen.

Table bookings of **eight (8)** will be accepted by booking in the table name i.e. John Brown - and by attaching the list of names with contact phone numbers & emailing to Coleen.



Proceeds from this dinner will be used for campaign purposes

Current Senate Inquiries

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Community Affairs References Committee

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

Economics Legislation Committee

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

Economics References Committee

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

Education and Employment References Committee

- **New** [The exploitation of general and specialist cleaners working in retail chains for contracting or subcontracting cleaning companies](#)
- [The high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers](#)
- [The prevention, investigation and prosecution of industrial deaths in Australia](#)
- [Work health and safety of workers in the offshore petroleum industry](#)

Environment and Communications References Committee

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

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

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

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

- **New** [Unexplained Wealth Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Defence Amendment \(Call Out of the Australian Defence Force\) Bill 2018](#)
- **New** [Family Law Amendment \(Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties\) Bill 2018](#)
- **New** [Modern Slavery Bill 2018](#)
- [The Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment \(Removing Commonwealth Restrictions on Cannabis\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment \(Strengthening the Commitments for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Judiciary Amendment \(Commonwealth Model Litigant Obligations\) Bill 2017](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee

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

Procedure Committee

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

Red Tape Committee

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

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

- [Air Services Amendment Bill 2018](#)

- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

- **New** [Regulatory approaches to ensure the safety of pet food](#)
- [The need for regulation of mobility scooters, also known as motorised wheelchairs](#)
- [The operation, regulation and funding of air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities](#)
- [The integrity of the water market in the Murray-Darling Basin](#)
- [Regulatory requirements that impact on the safe use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, Unmanned Aerial Systems and associated systems.](#)

Select Committee into the Obesity Epidemic in Australia

- [Obesity Epidemic in Australia](#)

Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century

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

Select Committee on Electric Vehicles

- **New** [Electric Vehicles](#)

Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education

- [Stillbirth Research and Education](#)

Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers

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

