



## Senator Claire Moore

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2018**

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### THIS WEEK:

*We have been receiving many emails concerning the issue of discrimination against students and the employment teachers and staff that involves issues of their sexual orientation.*

*Given our progress on some of these matters as demonstrated by the overwhelming support for marriage equality this is an important issue*

*So I wanted to include one of the emails I have received in this week's update;*

*"I'm a student at XXXX, and I believe that the government should remove religious exemptions that allow religious schools to turn away students due to gender or sexuality. To put it frankly, the student's sexual orientation or gender should not be of the school's concern. At my catholic college, I've started a diversity & inclusivity group to teach other students and let them talk about hard stuff like gender and sexuality. I could be expelled if this law goes through; however, I have reason to believe in my college and upholding its own values of inclusivity. I sincerely hope that you will deliver on your promise to remove this discrimination, and protect children like you should be."*

*Well said.*

*As yet another indicator of the Coalition's failure to govern we still haven't seen the Ruddock Review nor have we seen any proposed Government legislation around this.*

*We need to have respectful conversations about any concerns and to reinforce an absolute commitment to respect and inclusion.*

*We cannot support discrimination.*

SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore  
[www.clairemoore.net](http://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.

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## WHAT'S BEING SAID ...

### TAX EVASION - SHORTEN - MELBOURNE

"We've had the courage to say that we need to make multinationals and some very high wealth Australians who use - park their money and tax havens, we're going to make multinationals and this small group of very wealthy Australians pay their fair share of tax in Australia."

### TAX EVASION- LEIGH – 2CC RADIO CANBERRA

"Many of the tax policies that we've announced have been around improving the integrity of the system, closing off tax loopholes such as negative gearing, the 50 percent capital gains tax discount, tax concessions that allow people to split income using trusts. Removing the refundability of dividend imputation, something that only Australia has, no other country does things that way. We're closing multinational tax loopholes, which allow companies to use debt deductions to shift profits offshore. Yesterday we announced we shut down a loophole that allows multinational groups to write off bad debts internally. We're cracking down on the use of tax havens which are another tax loophole used predominantly by the super- rich. So a lot of what we're doing is trying to improve the integrity of the system, as you say, make it simpler and whole lot fairer."

### TAX EVASION - SHORTEN-TODAY SHOW

"There are some Australians who are able to claim citizenship or residency of another country, a low tax jurisdiction, and even though they earn money here they shuffle their money around and they pay practically no tax in these tax havens, these Caribbean Islands etc. I mean they even are able to fly over and inspect their tax accounts, in these tax havens and claim that back off the Australian taxpayer. So we are going to shut down the loopholes."

### TAX EVASION - BURNEY – ABC CENTRAL COAST NSW

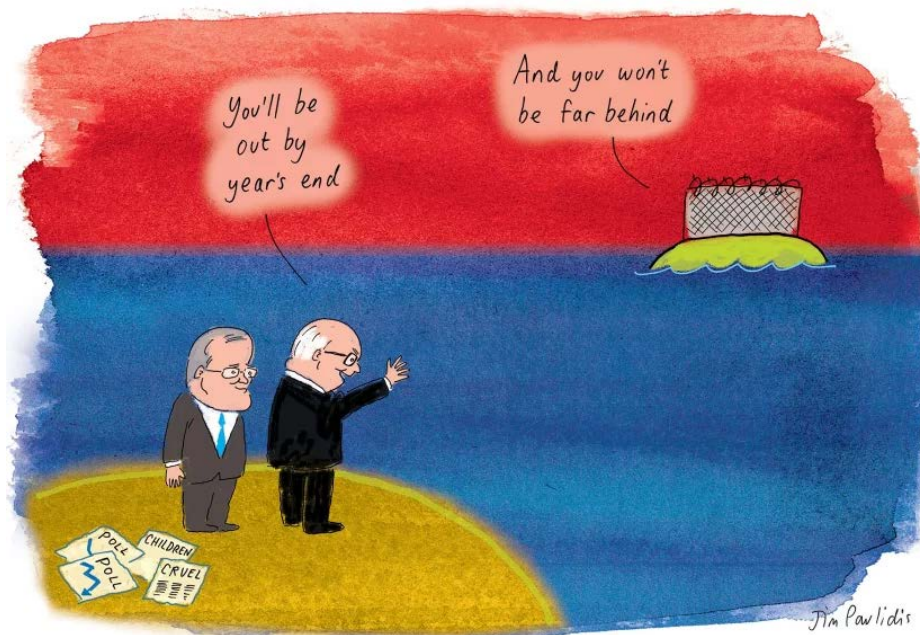
"If you want to crack down on multinationals and very, very wealthy people not paying their tax, who do you trust? The Liberal Party who spent most of their time in government wanting to give them tax cuts, or the Labor Party who wants to properly fund our schools and hospitals?"

### NEGATIVE GEARING - LEIGH – 2CC RADIO CANBERRA

"Australia's home ownership rate is now amongst the lowest third of the rich world. It just shouldn't be this way. But we've got ourselves into this pickle in part because of these uniquely generous tax concessions for housing investors, which allow them to crowd first home buyers out of the market."

### MASTER BUILDERS FALSE CLAIM RE LABOR'S NEGATIVE GEARING POLICY - BOWEN- ABC 612 RADIO

"To be clear, every investment that has already been made is completely protected and grandfathered"



### REFUGEE CHILDREN - NEUMANN-TOWNSVILLE

"Why are they continuing to not listen to treating clinicians and why are they continuing to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayer's money fighting cases? In the first quarter this year, they spent \$480,000 of taxpayer's money resisting medical transfers. In the end, guess what happens? They come."

### BARNABY JOYCE & ANIMAL WELFARE – FITZGIBBON-ABC RN BREAKFAST

"He changed this culture. He cut the Animal Welfare Unit, he cut the funding for the Animal Welfare Strategy, he abolished the Inspector General for Live Animal Exports with the imprimatur and support of all those who sat around the Cabinet table with him."

### MOSS REPORT RE ANIMAL WELFARE - FITZGIBBON – ABC TV NEWS 24

"This report is a damning condemnation of Barnaby Joyce's performance as Minister for

Agriculture. He took a wrecking ball through the Department and the independent regulator and we will continue to pressure the Government to restore some of those functions and to repair the damage."

### LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS - FITZGIBBON – ABC HACK

"The science is very, very clear. You can't jam 60,000 sheep onto a vessel - or even 50,000 or 40,000 or even one sheep into a vessel into the hottest of the middle eastern summer for four or five weeks and expect to keep faith with animal welfare standards. It's just not possible. The two are not compatible."

### LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS - FITZGIBBON-ABC RN BREAKFAST

"What we have with the live sheep trade is a broken model. A model which depends upon too many sheep going onto a ship, on a too long a voyage into a too hot a climate and conditions. So we came to a conclusion, based on the advice that is not sustainable. You can't regulate that. You can't fix that. So we will work with the industry to phase it out over time"

### MINISTER BIRMINGHAM'S GRANT APPLICATION INTERVENTION- KIM CARR – THE AGE

"When politicians act in secret and then claim massive public support for what they tried to conceal, it is a sure sign they know the original decision was indefensible."

### SCHOOL DISCRIMINATION - PLIBERSEK ABC NEWS BREAKFAST

"There is agreement that we should remove discrimination against children. It's hard to see how it can be OK to protect children, but not protect adults from discrimination in schools."



## NDIS PROBLEMS - BURNEY – ABC CENTRAL COAST NSW

*"I think there are major issues within the NDIS in terms of the way in which individual plans are designed. In terms of the bureaucracy, around that planning process. For example, if you've got a profound disability, and there is little prospect of you ever getting well, then why would you have to have a plan done every twelve months?"*

## SCHOOL FUNDING - PLIBERSEK ABC 'AM'

*"We stood with the Catholics and independents from day one and said that their funding should not be cut and should be restored and we've said that for public schools as well."*

## QUOTES OF THE WEEK

*"It finds that the vast and growing consumption of food and resources by the global population is destroying the web of life, billions of years in the making, upon which human society ultimately depends for clean air, water and everything else." - The World Wildlife Report (The Report found that humans have wiped out 60% of the world's animal populations since 1970. Sadly the report wasn't front page news, many news outlets didn't even mention it, the ABC did, if you scrolled down and down and down ....)*

*"The suppression of these research projects might not mean much to the philistine knuckle-draggers who sit behind Birmingham in the Senate. But it means a great deal to anyone who understands why academic freedom and autonomy matter, and why the quality of a university system depends on those things being upheld." - Kim Carr*

*"The report doesn't hold back. It accuses the department of being incompetent partly because of its culture, partly because of inexperienced staff but also because of deep cuts in areas concentrating on welfare standards." - Latika Bourke (SMH) - Commenting on Philip Moss' damning report into the Department of Agriculture's performance.*

*"The Liberals used to care about this. They used to be the party of home ownership for all. And now they've become the party of property investors. That's a sad state of affairs." - Andrew Leigh*

*"What is going on here is that the Australian public are tuning out from the Government. They are an absolute rabble. They are a mess. My son used to play junior AFL and they had a mercy rule, which was when it got so bad they called the scoring off and it is at this point for the Government. It is time that they actually went to an election and put themselves out of their misery." - Anthony Albanese*

*"HOST: So you guys could dress up as a character for trick-or-treating. Have you got anyone you might like to go as?  
ALBANESE: I could go as Christopher Pyne and scare people." - The only thing we're saying about the imported Yankee culture of Halloween.*

## GLIMPSES



### GET THEM OUT

*David Margan & The Guardian*

*Facing increasing pressure to remove all children, indeed all refugees abandoned on Nauru and Manus Island the Morrison government continues its spin in defending the conditions faced by asylum seekers and refugees on the island.*

*Tony Abbott opinions what a wonderful tropical paradise these places are and now the Assistant Minister for International Development, Anne Ruston, told the Australian Council for International Development's annual conference the current debate had "been politicised and is not grounded in fact".*

*The government claim to be "quietly" transferring all children from Nauru to Australia but while considering the 'facts' it's important to note that three quarters of the children so far removed from these tropical paradises were removed by order of Australian courts in response to the seriousness of their medical conditions. Court rulings the Morrison/Dutton government fought tooth and nail in the courts to defeat, further delaying the urgent medical treatment these kids needed.*

*Since 15 October, 135 people have been brought to Australia from Nauru, including 47 children.*

*Just 49 of the 135 were moved by the government without legal intervention by advocates or lawyers on behalf of them.*

*According to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, the 41 families included eight who were moved by court order, 21 under concessions made after legal intervention, and 12 moved at the initiative of Australian Border Force.*

*There are now fewer than 40 children left on Nauru due to ongoing medical transfers, despite the Morrison government continuing to defend the conditions faced by asylum seekers and refugees on the island.*

*The assistant minister for international development, Anne Ruston, told the Australian Council for International Development's annual conference the current debate had "been politicised and is not grounded in fact".*

*Ruston said the service providers on the island provided age appropriate health, education, recreational and cultural services, and medical care was available seven days a week from IHMS and Nauruan doctors.*

*There has been clear collusion between the Federal government and authorities in PNG and Nauru to maintain such fictions.*



Anyone criticising the situation has been sacked, expelled or transferred some were even falsely accused of encouraging self-harm among the refugees as a political tool.

The media has also regularly refused access or visas.

Last month Médecins Sans Frontieres called for the immediate evacuation of all transferees due to the high level of physical and mental illness and the inadequacy of services to deal with it after they were kicked off by the Nauruan government.

Despite Rushton's attempt to claim nothing is going on here the conference she addressed passed a resolution on Tuesday calling for the government to bring all children and their families to Australia, and ensure no one was held indefinitely on Nauru.

The chief executive of Acfid, Marc Purcell, joined Ruston on stage to thank her, but also said the council was calling for children and families to be taken off Nauru – drawing widespread applause from the room.

### JOYCE'S MATES

[About 15 Nationals members](#) have resigned in the face of an investigation into their alleged neo-Nazi and fascist ties.

### POLITE GREENS



***"Oh please bitch I am the baddest shoplifter there is."* — Joanna Nilson**

The Greens candidate quits Victoria's state election after The Herald Sun discovers a treasure trove of 2015 comments which she has since clarified were made "in jest online". The Greens candidate dramatically quit the state election race after it emerged she had posted tips on stealing groceries and bragged she was "the baddest shoplifter there is". Upper House hopeful Joanna Nilson stepped down last night after the Herald Sun exposed her boasts, which she now claims were a joke, in a Facebook group called the "Bad Gals Club".

Asked about the posts Nilson initially lied, denying knowledge. "Asked by the Herald Sun at 5.05pm yesterday about the posts — made in 2015 — Ms Nilson said: "I don't know anything about that, I've never been a member of anything like that." But her Facebook page was deactivated minutes later and by 7pm, Ms Nilson had resigned.

### SEXIST GREENS



Recently departed Senator Lee Rhiannon has likened the Greens to the churches that covered up child sexual abuse; blaming sexism for what she claimed was a collapse in the party's youth membership in NSW. Ms Rhiannon, who lost Greens preselection this year and quit the Senate in August, said the minor party was struggling to hold powerful men within its ranks accountable to standards of behaviour. She didn't single any one man out in the blog post on her website. She was responding to a speech by South Australian Greens senator Sarah Hanson-Young, who revealed members of her own party tried to overturn her preselection in 2007 when they found out she was pregnant. Ms Rhiannon pointed to figures showing the membership of the NSW Young Greens had collapsed by a third since June, and said this had been attributed to "the Greens' failure to act on complaints about the actions of high-profile men in the Greens towards women".

### GET ALONG



In exactly a month's time, November 30<sup>th</sup> Blue Knot Foundation's "[Working with Psychosis and Trauma](#)" masterclass will be conducted by 2017's Mental Health Nurse of the Year, Matthew Ball in Brisbane.

This masterclass will help you acquire skills in both relating and working with individuals experiencing psychosis, including applying the three-phased approach, and the use of recognised somatic and psychological approaches to working with trauma.

Don't miss out! Date: Fri, 30 November 2018 Venue: Velg Training, 52 Jeffcott St, Wavell Heights QLD 4012

Yes, I would like to register today

### REEF POLITICS

While the Morrison/Turnbull government was able to find \$440 million for a obscure Great Barrier Reef Foundation who didn't even ask for any money The Townsville-based Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies failed to secure the grant money from the Australian Research Council (ARC), despite an external review describing its submission as "revolutionary".

Researchers on the Great Barrier Reef will have to search harder for funding after the Centre for Excellence in Coral Reef Studies missed on further grants. "This work should be funded at all cost. It will be revolutionary," the review said, adding the assembled team of researchers and their program would change forever "how we go about ensuring sustainability and resilience in our changing world".

It is understood the glowing assessment had no dissenting voices.

Despite the endorsement, the Townsville-based centre which links coral researchers in four universities across Australia [failed even to make the shortlist](#) of 20 proposed "centres of excellence" being assessed by the ARC.

The reef science centre missed out despite ranking first among 1644 institutions worldwide for citations. Its omission for what would have been a third round of funding comes as the Great Barrier Reef faces its third mass coral bleaching in four summers early next year.

### WHERE ARE WE?

UK environmental secretary Michael Gove announced last week that the Conservative Party government planned to implement a ban on plastic straws, stirrers and earbuds by October 2020. Meanwhile, the European parliament went one step further the next day by approving a directive to ban all single-use plastics in the near future.

**[Asked to comment Tony Abbot said; "I don't use earbuds". - That's a joke Joyce! – David Margan, Editor]**

## MURRAY-DARLING DISGRACE

**Systematic mismanagement, cover up and maladministration has undermined the proper implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan, a Senior Water Researcher at The Australia Institute says.**

**Richard Beasley, Senior Counsel to the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission delivered the final submission to the Royal Commission this week, which summarized the evidence provided throughout the hearings.**



**“Mr Beasley’s evidence was a vindication for all of the critics who have been calling out the corrupted implementation of the Basin Plan.” says Maryanne Slattery, Senior Water Researcher at The Australia Institute.**

**“Our research has demonstrated systematic mismanagement, cover up and maladministration that has undermined the proper implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.**

**“This is a clear example of good policy going disastrously wrong. From the construction of the Basin Plan through to nearly every aspect of its implementation, it has been fundamentally flawed.**

**“Implementing the Plan for political expediency, without transparency or accountability by the Murray Darling Basin Authority, has resulted in a fraud of a Basin Plan. It has benefited big irrigators, at the expense of everyone else, including Aboriginal people, regional communities, floodplain graziers, small irrigators and the environment.**

**“The Basin Plan was a once in a generation chance at reform to return our water use to sustainable levels while avoiding environmental collapse and the subsequent damage to our regional communities and economies. Its implementation has been a betrayal to all Australians, who deserve to be angry.”**

**Richard Beasley, Senior Counsel to the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission delivered the final submission to the Royal Commission today,**

**which summarized the evidence provided throughout the hearings.**

**Mr Beasley said that the “implementation of the Basin Plan was, at critical times, characterized by a lack of attention to the Water Act and a near total lack of transparency.**

**“The implementation of the Basin Plan has been marred by maladministration, which falls on both past and present executives of the Authority and its Board.”**

**He said that the Basin Plan is having a negative impact on the environment, and probably economies as well.**

## REDRESS

**The Catholic, Anglican and Uniting churches still haven’t signed up to the National Redress Scheme.**

## INFLEXIBILITY

**Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton has again rebuffed New Zealand’s offer to accept people seeking asylum from Manus Island and Nauru, despite suggestions from Prime Minister Scott Morrison during the Wentworth by-election that the deal could be accepted in return for a lifetime ban. Dutton stated in a [Sky News interview](#) that New Zealand would be a “pull factor” for people seeking asylum by boat and that the government’s unofficial plan to evacuate children from Nauru was based on economic, not humanitarian, reasons. Department lawyers will today challenge another evacuation attempt at the [Federal Court](#).**

## TONY GETS TURNBULL

**Malcolm Turnbull was a regular guest on the ABC’s Q&A now he returns for his first major interview since he was deposed as Prime Minister. The ABC is billing the special episode, hosted by Tony Jones on 8 November, as an opportunity for Turnbull “to answer questions from the people of Australia”.**

## POSITIVELY GEARED

**You may have noticed a recent campaign by the Morrison Government and a few special interest groups like the Master Builders Association to run a fatuous scare campaign against the plans by Labor to reform the negative gearing rules well, this is what a columnist Jessica Irvine of the Sydney Morning Herald had to say on the matter;**

**“Labor’s policy remains a once in-a-generation reform aimed at fixing a broken housing tax system which pits young homeowners against investors. Caution is needed but there is little reason to fear a market meltdown from the changes. If the scaremongers manage to spark a panic, blame should fall squarely on their heads, not on a reform which could help Australia finally begin to cure its excessive addiction to property investment.**

**“Critically, Labor decided to “grandfather” the owners of all existing investment properties, allowing them to keep claiming any net rental losses at tax time and also receive the full 50 per cent capital gains concession when they eventually sold. Labor’s policy remains unchanged. So, the 2.1 million individuals who declare rental income to the Tax Office, on the latest figures, continue to be largely unaffected by Labor’s changes. If anything, they’ll have a new incentive not to sell their properties, which would be broadly supportive of property prices.”**

## CANE TOADS PROTECTED



**After years of lobbying, Queenslanders will soon be protected under a Human Rights Act, to replace a patchwork of legislation under a new framework to ensure freedom of speech, safety, privacy and equality.**

### Key points

**Queensland will be the third jurisdiction in the nation to introduce a Human Rights Act**

**The act replaces patchwork laws in order to protect 23 human rights**

**It is designed to enhance protection and privacy of individuals**

**Michael Cope from the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties said Australian states were some of the last in the Western world to be covered by such an act.**

**“We know from history that democracies can quickly change from being democracies to something else,” Mr Cope said.**

**The [Human Rights Act](#) was introduced in State Parliament on Wednesday and is expected to be passed early next year.**

The bill will provide provisions to protect 23 human rights including:

Recognition and equality before the law

- Right to life
- Protection from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment
- Freedom from forced work
- Freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief
- Peaceful assembly and freedom of association

As part of the move, the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland will be rebranded as the Queensland Human Rights Commission and will take complaints from members of the public under the new system.

Under the framework, a breach of the Human Rights Act would not result in a criminal proceeding but allow complainants to take their case to the Human Rights Commission for mediation or remedy. The act will not provide a right to sue for compensation unless it is sought under existing laws. Queensland will be the third jurisdiction in Australia to introduce a Human Rights Act, behind the ACT and Victoria.

YUK!



A museum showcasing some of the world's most polarising foods will open in Sweden today, and there are three staple Australian dishes that have been offered a place at the table.

The iconic Vegemite spread, nostalgia-filled musk sticks and witchetty grubs are among 80 items being put on display at the Disgusting Food Museum in Malmö.

#### ABETZ LOSES HIS LIBRARY CARD

Eric Abetz billed taxpayers almost \$3000 to buy 200 copies of a book that is available free online. The book, *The Forgotten People*, was printed for Liberal think tank the Menzies Research Centre.

It is a collection of the weekly radio broadcasts made by Liberal Party founder and former Prime Minister Robert Menzies in the years after 1941. In fact Government MPs have spent more than \$9000 buying 614 copies of a book that is published by a Liberal Party think tank and available online for free. Senator Abetz defended the purchase, saying the books were bought at a discounted rate directly from the publisher. **[Point is they have used taxpayer money to provide a donation to a party political think tank! David Margan, Editor]**



#### IN YOUR FACE

The Takata airbag recall – the largest recall in Australia's automotive history – affected 2.7 million motorists in Australia.

About 115,000 of these cars were fitted with "alpha" airbags – the most dangerous airbags under the [recall](#) – which have been marked as high priority, with the remaining 2.6 million cars being ranked as a lower priority.

When involved in a car collision, the airbags may explode instead of inflating, propelling shards of metal into the face of the driver at high speeds which has been shown to result in severe injuries, even death.

Car dealers are informing customers that they are unable to replace faulty airbags until parts become available, which could be anywhere from next month to December 2020.

Motorists are being told that there is nothing that they can do in the interim but wait to be contacted by their car dealer.

## WORLD'S WORST AIRLINES

63	Jet Airways	68	Air Mauritius
64	Aerolineas	69	EasyJet
65	Iberia	70	Pakistan International Airlines
66	Korean Air	71	Royal Jordanian Airlines
67	Ryanair	72	WOW Air

SOURCE: AIRHELP SCORE REPORT

#### UNBELIEVABLE!! - Nick O'Malley (The Brisbane Times)

Pilot Nancy-Bird Walton died in 2009. Ms Walton became [one of Australia's most celebrated pilots](#), an Officer of the Order of Australia, and her name would one day appear upon Qantas's flagship A380 aircraft. She was named a National Living Treasure in 1997.

By war's end John Bird had been awarded honours by both Australia and the United States, having served in the merchant navies of both nations. He moved for a time to the Australian protectorate that is now Papua New Guinea, where he married his Papuan wife and had five children before returning to Australia.

Each of the children were immediately registered and granted Australian citizenship, and when they turned six they were packed off to boarding school in Sydney. There they spent their weekends and holidays with their aunt, Nancy-Bird. One of John's daughters is Mary-Anne, who at 64 remains an active member of the Australian Army Reserve, which she has now served for 29 years.

So it has been a shock to the whole family that the Department of Home Affairs is now challenging the citizenship of all the children. Mary-Anne has been forced onto a bridging visa which will expire in the new year.



Cathy Bird, niece of Nancy-Bird Walton first discovered that her citizenship was being questioned by the Department in 2016 when she went to renew her passport. A couple of days after submitting her fee and the appropriate forms she received a call from the department saying that it did not consider her to be a citizen and demanding she apply for a Returning Resident visa.

Cathy went into hiding after her bridging visa expired.

"I told them, 'I can't, I haven't returned from anywhere, I'm here, I've always been here,'" she says. "It is just being told you that you don't belong that hurts the most."

Later she was informed that according to the Department she had been issued a visa in 1994 that expired in 2006 and she needed to sort out her status. She says she has no idea what the Department is talking about, that during that period she lived in Australia, holding an Australian passport, and that the Department has refused to show her the visa it is referring to. Finally in September she was contacted by a case officer in Cairns and instructed to apply for a bridging visa. She claims her case officer bullied and intimidated her in a meeting, telling her that he could - and would - remove her from her flat at any time.

"He said he could break down my door and he would be happy to do it," says Cathy. "It is common knowledge up here [in far North Queensland], people are scared of Border Force." She was granted a one-month bridging visa which expired on October 31. Last week she locked up her Cairns apartment, had Mary-Anne drive her to the airport and went into hiding in rural NSW.

Asked why the Birds' citizenship had been challenged and how many people might be affected by changes to regulations, a spokesperson for the Department of Home Affairs declined to comment on individual cases due to privacy concerns.

### LIAR, LIAR ...PANTS ON FIRE

In an interview Donald Trump has claimed he always tries to tell the truth but according to the Washington Post his efforts are a miserable failure. The [Washington Post's Fact Checker blog](#) found that Trump said more than 5,000 false or misleading claims in his first 601 days in office -- a rate of more than eight a day. But even more importantly for this, the [Fact Checker points](#) out that Trump repeats falsehoods dozens of times -- even after facts refute that claim.

### DON DALE HORROR CONTINUES

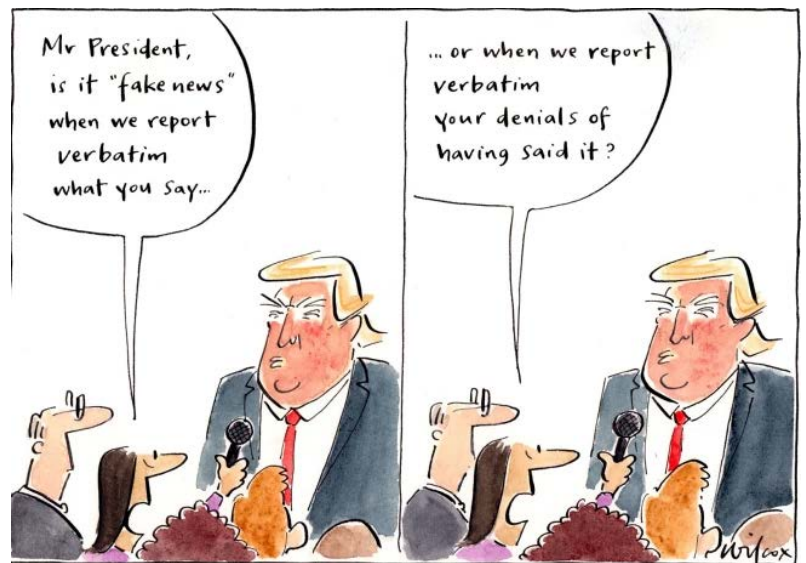
#### Northern Territory Times

Teenage girls at Don Dale youth detention centre are being forced to shower while under constant surveillance, Parliament has heard. Opposition Leader Gary Higgins asked Chief Minister Michael Gunner in Parliament yesterday to comment on reports that girls were being held in the high security "B-block" of the notorious prison turned-youth detention centre, where they were made to shower "under the watchful eye of surveillance cameras".

Don Dale Royal Commissioners Margaret White and Mick Gooda wrote that girls sometimes didn't take showers as only male staff were rostered on. "At times, male youth justice officers showed inappropriately sexualised behaviour towards girls and young women and otherwise behaved towards them in a way that did not meet society's expectations," they wrote.

### MORRISON NOT 'FAIR DINKUM'

Australian software billionaire Mike Cannon-Brookes has accused Prime Minister Scott Morrison of being dishonest over the cause of rising power bills, as he called on supporters of clean energy to get behind his 'Fair Dinkum Power' movement. "People are saying 'why is my bill so expensive?' and [Mr Morrison] is out there saying 'it's renewables', that is not true, that is dishonest," Mr Cannon-Brookes told the Herald yesterday. "Your power bill is expensive for a lot of reasons and the experts agree it is nothing to do with renewables"



### MORRISON MUST REFER CREWTHER

Reports today that Member for Dunkley Chris Crewther invested in a company that has received federal grants – after spruiking those very grants in Parliament – cast serious doubts over his eligibility for Parliament and mean he must be referred to the High Court.

In October 2017, [Mr Crewther told Parliament](#):

**"I met with the CEO of Gretals, Alistair Cumming, to discuss how they will benefit from the \$50,000 grant they recently received under the government's Global Connections Fund, part of the National Innovation and Science Agenda, as well as other federal funding they've recently received."**

Astonishingly, on 6 September this year, Mr Crewther disclosed to the House of Representatives he had then invested \$25,000 in Gretals Australia, a biotechnology company.

The 2017 grant is on top of Gretals' ongoing involvement with an Australian Research Council Linkage grant, involving more than \$400,000 of Commonwealth money, through which Gretals stands to gain significant commercial benefit.



The Constitution is clear – members of Parliament cannot have an interest in agreements with the Commonwealth, whether direct or indirect. Mr Morrison must refer Mr Crewther to the High Court without delay. After Mr Dutton, Mr Crewther is the second Coalition MP carrying serious doubts over his eligibility to even be in Parliament. Scott Morrison has truly lost control. Scott Morrison must refer Mr Crewther to the High Court, along with Peter Dutton. If he does not, he will continue to be an illegitimate leader running a protection racket for his illegitimate government.

This murky saga also shows why we need a federal anti-corruption body – like Labor’s proposed National Integrity Commission – so Australians can have faith in the integrity and transparency of its representatives.

### **GOVERNMENT FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT IS FAKE NEWS – Jones/Keogh**

**The Morrison Government has been exposed for rushing funding decisions to buy political support from One Nation. In the days before the Liberal Party Leadership spill One Nation Senator Peter Georgiou was given the go-ahead to announce a \$3 million grant for a football club that hadn’t even been approved.**

The Morrison Governments rushed and chaotic decision making process was revealed at Senate Estimates hearings in Canberra last week. Departmental officers admitted the controversial funding of \$3 million pledged for Floreat Athena Football Club is not secured and no assessment of the project has yet been done.

Labor has previously raised a number of concerns about how the August announcement of funding by the Morrison Government came to be made by One Nation Senator Peter Georgiou – [Story here](#) - and now even more questions arise.

Under questioning by Labor Senator Gallacher, Departmental officers revealed there is in fact no decision to provide any funding for the club at this point.

**Ms Zielke:** *'Announced' is not the right language there. There hasn't been an assessment provided to the minister on value for money as yet. An agreement is not issued to the proponents until after the minister has taken a decision in relation to that value-for-money assessment. So it's not contracted at this stage.*

Senator GALLACHER: *I quote: "A \$3 million Federal Government grant for a WA soccer club to upgrade its home ground has left the club cheering but triggered a war of words between the stadium's landlord and a One Nation senator". So the funding package was announced. What's the status of the funding? Is it approved or not?*

**Ms Zielke:** *It has not been contracted. A value-for-money assessment has not been undertaken. The announcement in relation to the grant is something the department wasn't involved in.*

Senator GALLACHER: *I'm just trying to follow logically from the ANAO report, and then I thought I heard there was an assessment that goes to the minister saying that it's all going to be good, because you don't knock anything back. Is this the first one that's been challenged?*

**Ms Wieland:** *No. This program is an election commitments program. What we've tried to explain is that announcements are made by incoming governments and, once those announcements are made, the department then works with the proponent to gather sufficient information to provide a recommendation to the minister to approve that grant.*

Senator GALLACHER: *That didn't happen? I'm trying to get the—*

**Ms Wieland:** *We're at the early stage of the process. There was an announcement.*

Senator GALLACHER: *So, despite the fact that it's been announced by someone and it's been argued about by the owner of the land and the club, it's not official yet? There's no \$3 million here?*

**MS WIELAND:** *There's no decision taken to provide that funding at this point. It's been announced but not decided. We have not entered into a funding agreement.*

This is evidence the Liberal Government are making reckless funding announcements, using taxpayer funds for political advantage and without any due diligence. Announcements like this raise great uncertainty for both funding recipients and their community as despite the fanfare, the promised funding may not proceed.

Despite having the full resources of government available to them, Liberal Ministers are prepared to bypass proper process and give the green light to announce random funding without any assessment by the Department and in this case, even without discussing it with the groups set to receive the funding.

The Morrison Government now needs to make it clear – was Senator Georgiou speaking on behalf of the Turnbull Government when he made the announcement?. Is the announcement still backed by the Morrison Government?

### **PORTER'S 'JOHNNY COME LATELY' MOMENT – Dreyfus**

**For eight months, the government has repeatedly refused Labor’s offer to work together on establishing a National Integrity Commission.**

In fact, Christian Porter’s [latest refusal](#) to work with Labor came just 17 days ago.

Just yesterday, [the Deputy Prime Minister said](#) a National Integrity Commission was ‘not necessary’.

Now, all of a sudden, [he is open to the idea](#).

So what changed? The Wentworth by-election, and the prospect of minority government.

This government’s so-called ‘principles’ only last as long as is expedient. With Scott Morrison as Prime Minister, the coalition are desperately grasping for anything they think will help to keep their tenuous grip on power.



In January this year, Bill Shorten [outlined Labor's plan](#) to legislate for a National Integrity Commission within 12 months of government and set out seven detailed design principles. We have been waiting for the government to catch up. Only time will tell if Porter truly is willing to do the work on a federal anti-corruption body – or if this is yet another ploy.



## **LABOR WILL TACKLE MULTINATIONAL TAX DODGERS – Shorten/Leigh**

**A Shorten Labor Government will tackle multinational tax dodgers to help pay for our priorities – better schools, better hospitals and protecting Medicare.**

Labor will implement a number of measures targeting multinational tax avoidance and high wealth tax dodgers, saving the budget \$4.8 billion over the next decade, including stopping companies claiming illegitimate deductions for travel to and from known tax havens.

Working Australians pay their taxes – it's only fair that multinationals pay their fair share too.

Labor will also close a loophole that allows companies to deduct bad debt from related party financing arrangements.

These measures build on Labor's existing plans to make the tax system fairer for all Australians.

Labor will make firms undertaking business in tax havens disclose that to shareholders and make significant tenderers disclose their country of tax domicile.

We will introduce public country-by-country reporting, work with superannuation funds to make sure they develop guidelines for tax haven investments and stop citizenship shopping by requiring Australians with foreign residency to report to the Tax Office.

Tax havens are used by drug-runners, extortionists and counterfeiters. Around four-fifths of the money shifted to tax havens is estimated to be in breach of other countries' tax laws. Half the money in tax havens is estimated to be owned by the top 0.01 percent. One estimate suggests that Australians have around \$100 billion parked in tax havens.

Australians know that when multinational tax dodgers and the super-rich don't pay their fair share, we can't fund our education and health systems properly.

While the Coalition is paralysed by infighting and indecision, Labor has made serious decisions to balance the budget, pay down debt and fund its positive policies for schools and hospitals.

Labor knows what needs to be done and will continue to lead the debate on multinational tax avoidance.

If the Coalition was serious about tax fairness, it would adopt Labor's plan.

### **LABOR'S MULTINATIONAL TAX CRACK DOWN – SAVING THE BUDGET \$4.8 BILLION**

- *Tighten debt-deduction loopholes used by multinational companies, improving the Budget by \$3 billion over the medium term.*
- *Capping deductions for managing tax affairs at \$3,000.*
- *Close a debt deduction loophole to ensure consistent treatment in related party financing arrangements.*
- *Automatically deny deductions from companies for travel to and from tax havens.*
- *Increase penalties for individuals and entities promoting tax evasion and avoidance.*
- *Crack down on citizenship shopping by requiring all individual Australian taxpayers to notify and declare to the Australian Taxation Office if they have residency or citizenship of any other jurisdiction and the name of that jurisdiction.*
- *Introduce public reporting of country-by-country reports, ensuring the release of high-level tax information about where and how much tax was paid by large corporations (over \$1 billion in global revenue).*
- *Provide protection for whistle-blowers who report on entities evading tax to the Australian Taxation Office and, where whistle-blowers' information results in more tax being paid, allow them to collect a share of the tax penalty (a reward of up to \$250,000).*
- *Introduce a publicly accessible registry of the beneficial ownership of Australian listed companies and trusts, allowing the public to find out who really owns our firms.*
- *Introduce mandatory shareholder reporting of tax haven exposure, requiring companies to disclose to shareholders as a 'Material Tax Risk' if the company is doing business in a tax haven.*
- *Appoint a community sector representative to the Board of Taxation to ensure community sector voices are heard in tax design and review processes.*
- *Introduce public reporting of Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) data and require the annual public release of international cash flow data.*
- *Require all firms tendering for Australian Government contracts worth more than \$200,000 to state their country of domicile for tax purposes.*
- *Develop guidelines for tax haven investment by superannuation funds.*
- *Require that the Australian Taxation Office's annual report provide information on the number and size of tax settlements.*
- *Restore Labor's \$100 million threshold for public reporting of tax data for private companies, which was raised to \$200 million by the Liberals and Greens in a move which exempted two-thirds of private firms from tax transparency.*

## **LABOR AGAIN LEADING ON POLICY, WHILE THE COALITION BACKFLIPS – Leigh**

**Labor is again leading the policy discussion with the Coalition today scrambling to catch up on taxpayer appeal reforms we announced in August.** Last Wednesday, Assistant Treasurer Stuart Robert said he was happy with the tax office's processes in dealing with appeals:

*"...Assistant Treasurer Stuart Robert is satisfied with the ATO's reforms." (Australian Financial Review, 24 October 2018)*



On Monday, Mr Robert said:

[“There are some things we are going to do in terms of looking at better ways for taxpayers to sit down with the Tax Office.”](#)

Rather than lazily ‘looking’ around, the Coalition should adopt Labor’s considered policy, [unveiled two months ago](#), and broadly welcomed by the small business sector.

A Shorten Labor Government will legislate to establish a new position of *Second Commissioner – Appeals* within the Tax Office, reporting to the Commissioner of Taxation, to head up a new Appeals area within the Australian Taxation Office.

Labor urges Mr Robert to adopt these practical measures to help all taxpayers.

## **MASTER BUILDERS POLITICKING WON’T HELP FIRST HOME BUYERS – Cameron**

**Master Builders Association chief executive Denita Wawn should stop misrepresenting Labor’s plan to end the Coalition’s affordable housing crisis which is adversely impacting young Australians.**

Ms Wawn continued her misrepresentation of Labor’s policy this morning on ABC’s *Weekend Breakfast*, based on her organisations flawed analyses of the policy and contrary to the Treasury modelling.

Shadow Housing and Homelessness Minister, Doug Cameron, said the MBA’s baseless attacks on Labor’s housing policy were merely designed to support the desperate fear mongering of the Morrison Government.

“The MBA research does not accurately assess Labor’s policies and deliberately omits fundamental components such as the grandfathering clause,” Senator Cameron said.

“The reality is Australian home ownership has collapsed in recent decades, particularly for younger people, and it is threatening the fabric of our society and creating further inequality.

“Labor’s policies will prevent first home buyers from having to constantly compete with cashed up investors that receive the most generous housing tax concessions in the world.”

Senator Cameron said Labor’s reforms will reverse the decline in home ownership, deliver substantial savings to the budget and improve the tax system that currently encourages people to take on excessive amounts of debt.

“Our reforms will ensure young people don’t continue to be locked out of the housing market by investors buying their second, third or fourth properties,” Senator Cameron said.

“If the MBA really wanted to assist its members, rather than just propping up the Morrison Government, it would be talking to Labor about how government, industry and the community housing sector can work together to solve the affordable housing crisis created by the Coalition.”

Labor will limit negative gearing to new housing from the start of the new policy after the next election. All investments made before this time will not be affected by this change and will be fully grandfathered.

Under Labor, the capital gains discount will be halved for all assets purchased. This will reduce the capital gains tax discount for assets that are held longer than 12 months from the current 50 per cent to 25 per cent.

A Shorten Labor government has also committed to:

- Developing and implementing a national plan to reduce homelessness through the Council of Australian Governments
- Providing \$88 million over two years for a new Safe Housing Fund to increase transitional housing options for women and children escaping domestic and family violence, young people exiting out-of-home care and older women on low incomes who are at risk of homelessness
- Reinstating both a Minister for Housing and Homelessness and the National Housing Supply Council

Labor has a [suite of policies](#) to combat rising homelessness and improve housing affordability, and will have more to say in the lead up to the election.



## **TEHAN MEDDLES EVEN MORE WITH RESEARCH GRANTS – Carr**

**Minister for Education, Dan Tehan MP’s announcement of a “National Interest Test for” Australian research grants is just an attempt to spin his government’s way out of trouble on its arbitrary decision-making regarding the awarding of research grants.**

A national interest test already exists.

The very terms by which the Minister described his test this morning are already part of the application process, namely the impact of the research on the Australian nation.

The Minister’s proposals remain highly subjective and personal, and do not protect the research system from arbitrary politically motivated interventions.

The Minister still refuses to provide a public explanation as to why a grant would be rejected.

Like so much of this government’s approach it’s about spin not policy substance

Under Minister Tehan's proposals world leading researchers seeking funding would never know the reasons why their proposals have been rejected. This will still leave our world class researchers exposed to capricious veto by Ministers who somehow think they know better – or who wish to pander to the extreme views in the community.

Competition for grants is very stiff. Success rates have fallen from 31 per cent to 14 per cent in some fields under this government. The Australian Research Council (ARC) already has one of the most rigorous and comprehensive peer review process in the world when it comes to reviewing research grant applications.

The Minister is due to make decisions on up to \$300 million of new grants within days. Will he resort to the subjective political interference favoured by Simon Birmingham, or will he listen to the views of all of Australia's universities, the learned academies and civil society and respect the independence of the Australian Research Council?

Whatever happens, it is clear that only Labor will restore independence and integrity to the Australian Research Council and Australia's research system.

### **TEHAN REJECTS CALLS TO END RESEARCH GRANT SECRECY – Carr**

**Minister for Education, Dan Tehan MP, [has today rejected calls](#) from Australia's universities, learned academies, medical research institutes and leading scholars to restore transparency to arbitrary ministerial decisions about the awarding of research grants.**

Despite calls by Labor and all the leading stakeholders in the science and research community, the Minister seemingly believes that he knows better than the thousands of scholars who assist in formulating peer reviewed, and independent recommendations on what research projects should be funded.

[Yesterday](#), I wrote to Minister Tehan asking him to end the secrecy – particularly since he is currently in the process of making decisions about the 2019 funding round for *Discovery Projects* and [Discovery Early Career Researcher Award Grants](#).

Labor's call has been backed by all the major stakeholders in the sector, from peak university groups, the nation's leading universities, the learned academies and peak science bodies like Science and Technology Australia.

If the Liberals won't be upfront with the Australian people and reveal when their Minister's reject expert advice on the awarding of research grants, then Labor will have no choice but to do so ourselves and expose the government's unfair and unjustified actions.

Organisations that have called for openness and transparency in the award of research grants:

- Universities Australia
- Group of Eight
- Innovative Research Universities
- University of Melbourne
- Monash University
- The University of Sydney
- Australian National University
- University of New South Wales
- Latrobe University
- Australian Academy of the Humanities
- Australian Academy of Social Sciences
- Australian Academy of Science
- Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering
- Australian Association of Medical Research Institutes
- Science and Technology Australia
- Deans of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Australian Universities Heads of English
- Australian Association for Research in Education
- Australian Teacher Education Association



**LABOR WILL DELIVER EXTRA FUNDING FOR EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL – Shorten/Plibersek**  
From Wednesday, parents and teachers will be able to find out how much extra funding their local public school will get under a Shorten Labor Government, and what a difference this will make for their kids.

A new website – [www.fairgoforschools.com.au](http://www.fairgoforschools.com.au) – will give each school an estimate of the extra funding it can expect in the first three years of Labor's plan. Labor will provide an extra \$14 billion for public schools to deliver the biggest school investment in Australian history.

**Every student in every public school will be better off under Labor's plan.**

Parents and teachers know what this could mean for their children: more one on one attention, an extra teacher or teacher aide. This funding will give schools the resources they need to help students master the basics such as reading, writing, maths, and science, and offer a broader range of subjects including languages, coding, the arts, and vocational education.



Our extra investment will transform public schools across Australia and give all children the opportunity to reach their full potential, no matter where they live, or how much their parents earn.

Australian schools should be the best in the world, and every Australian child deserves the best start in life.

Labor believes that for parents to have real choice, governments have a responsibility to make sure our public schools are second to none.

But at the moment, because of Scott Morrison's cuts, **almost nine in ten public schools will never get to their fair funding level.**

Over the last five years all the Liberals have done is attack public schools and slash their funding.

Scott Morrison doesn't think the 2.5 million students in the public school system deserve fair funding – he thinks he can get away with his cuts.

Labor can pay for better public schools because unlike the Liberals, we're closing tax loopholes for the top end of town and making multinationals pay their fair share.

Scott Morrison's record as Treasurer is three budgets of cuts to schools, all to pay for his tax handouts to the big banks and top end of town.

Labor has different priorities – we will crackdown on multinational tax avoidance and give our kids a better future by investing in schools.

At the next election there will be a clear choice for voters – Labor's commitment to invest in public schools, or the Liberals' cuts.



**UNIVERSITIES  
AUSTRALIA**

**The leaders of Australia's 39 universities condemn the decision of former Education Minister Simon Birmingham to veto 11 research projects recommended for funding by the Australian Research Council.**

**Vice-Chancellors and their delegates today said the decision undermined confidence in the nation's research funding system and sent exactly the wrong message to the global research community.**

**These highly competitive grants are judged by panels of the most eminent experts in each field of research, through a lengthy and rigorous process to determine which projects receive funds.**

**Expert review is the cornerstone of merit-based research systems around the world. It ensures that taxpayer funds are spent wisely on the best research across all fields of endeavour. This also ensures Australia remains at the forefront of global research advances.**

**A Ministerial veto decision in the research grants system erodes global confidence in Australia's research program and our reputation for research excellence.**

**Such a veto also undermines academic freedom, by opening the door to any Minister deciding they don't like a research topic – irrespective of its merits – that could transform knowledge in a field.**

**The Higher Education Support Act obliges every university to have a policy that upholds free intellectual inquiry in teaching, learning and research. There is an irony in the Minister responsible for that Act breaching that same principle by exercising such a veto.**

**It is particularly disappointing to note that all 11 vetoed projects were in the humanities – which receives the smallest amount of funding by far of all the fields of research.**

**These researchers have suffered damage to their careers, missed out on professional opportunities and, in some cases, have now been lost to Australia because they have been recruited by universities overseas.**

**This veto has also endangered the reputation and trust in the work of the highly-esteemed Australian Research Council, one of the nation's major research funding agencies.**

**ARC staff have also been placed in the invidious position of having to give feedback to applicants whose projects were recommended for funding but then vetoed – without a public explanation from the Minister.**

**We urge the Government to mitigate the damage to these researchers and Australia's research integrity by reversing the veto on these 11 grants – and committing to follow expert advice in future.**

## **WHAT WAS SIMON BIRMINGHAM REALLY THINKING?**

*Australians expect their universities to be places of free inquiry, where the pursuit of knowledge is not constrained by political censorship or interference.*

*That can no longer be taken for granted.*

*In late 2017 and early 2018, then education minister Simon Birmingham rejected 11 grant applications by scholars in humanities disciplines. All the applications had been recommended by the Australian Research Council after an independent process of peer review.*

*Birmingham provided neither the applicants nor the council with reasons for his decisions. We only know of his interventions in the ARC grants process because of answers to questions I asked the council's CEO, Professor Sue Thomas, at an estimates hearing last week.*

*Birmingham has since insisted, in response to criticism, that there is overwhelming public support for his actions.*

*When politicians act in secret and then claim massive public support for what they tried to conceal, it is a sure sign they know the original decision was indefensible.*

*The present government has repudiated a protocol I instituted as higher education minister in 2007, which required a minister who refuses to sign off on an ARC recommendation to make a full, timely and public explanation of the decision.*

*Of the 11 rejected applications, six were for Discovery projects and - unprecedentedly - three for Discovery Early Career Awards and two for Future Fellowships.*

*Success rates for humanities projects in these categories are not high: in the 2018 round of ARC grants, only 18 per cent of Discovery applications were successful, only 15 per cent of Early Career Award applications and only 14 per cent of Future Fellowship applications.*

*Yet the 11 projects Birmingham rejected had passed every test. The ARC's peer-reviewed assessment process had found them all to be of high merit and worthy of public funding.*

*What could he have known about the 11 applications that the distinguished scholars conducting the assessments did not? Perhaps the titles in*

the list of 11 projects pushed his buttons. Titles such as "Greening media sport" or "Music heritage and cultural justice in the post-industrial legacy city".

Or, more likely, they would have irked philistine hard-right elements of the Liberal Party.

"Greening media sport" intended to investigate the role of sport in promoting environmental awareness. It included the MCG's investment in waste and water recycling, and the efforts of Formula One teams to achieve carbon-neutral status.

The Liberal right's refusal to acknowledge any research that takes climate change seriously is well-known.

"Music heritage and cultural justice in the post-industrial legacy city" is, among other things, about the impact of the Holden shutdown in Elizabeth, South Australia.

That is a deeply embarrassing subject to the Liberals, who forced the shutdown and are responsible for the job losses it caused. The suppression of these research projects might not mean much to the philistine knuckle-draggers who sit behind Birmingham in the Senate.

But it means a great deal to anyone who understands why academic freedom and autonomy matter, and why the quality of a university system depends on those things being upheld.

That is why Birmingham's actions have been universally condemned in the higher education and research sectors. The custodians of Western civilisation in our universities have always been the humanities departments.

Critically engaging with that tradition and passing on the fruits to others is what humanities scholars do. Or at least, that is what is supposed to happen - except when a minister uses his power to interfere for political reasons.

That is an abuse of ministerial prerogative, and if it continues it will be a far greater threat to core values of Western civilisation than any of the research projects the philistines don't understand. **This opinion piece was published in The Age, on Thursday, 1 November 2018.**

## OLD INFRASTRUCTURE

### **LABOR WILL UPGRADE NORTHGATE TRAIN STATION – Albanese/Swan**

**Federal Labor will contribute \$7 million to expand Park and Ride facilities at the Northgate train station to ease parking shortages and encourage more commuters to use public transport.**

Federal Labor's investment will be drawn from its \$300 million National Park and Ride Fund for new or expanded car parks at public transport hubs and will be delivered in partnership with the Queensland State Government.

Each weekday nearly 750 commuters seek to park at Northgate. But the station has only 377 parking bays over four car parks.

This means commuters rushing to catch their trains to work are forced to park in surrounding streets and walk to the station, creating more congestion and inconvenience to nearby residents.

A Federal Labor Government will move quickly to work with the Queensland Government on the upgrade.

Across Australia, traffic congestion is acting as a hand brake on productivity and is eroding our national quality of life.

**The problem has worsened during the five years of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government, which has cut funding for public transport projects, including Cross River Rail, at a time when strong population growth required increased investment.**

Shadow Infrastructure and Transport Minister Anthony Albanese said the Northgate expansion would make a real, practical difference for Northside commuters while also reducing congestion for local residents. "We'll not only invest in new public transport services, but also deliver practical measures to help commuters get to work with a minimum of fuss, including through our new Park and Ride Fund," Mr Albanese said.

"Public transport isn't just about the train line or bus route itself. It's also about the surrounding infrastructure that makes it work for local residents."

Labor candidate for Lilley Anika Wells said population growth and traffic congestion were of critical concern to people in Lilley and right across the Brisbane Northside.

"Northsiders are fed up with the Morrison Government focusing entirely on itself, rather than opportunities to help our community," Ms Wells said. "I'm proud to be part of the team which is putting in the work to deliver practical solutions that will make daily life easier for Northside commuters and the local residents."

**Labor's plans for Northgate Station follow its announcement for Cross River Rail, South East Queensland's number one infrastructure project that will deliver a \$2.4 billion congestion busting upgrade to the Queensland rail network.**

Labor urges Mr Robert to adopt these practical measures to help all taxpayers.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### BUILDING NOTHING – Burke

After questioning from Senator Gallacher it was revealed in Senate estimates that despite all of their talk – the Government has not built a dam on the Australian mainland and not started any new dams.

Barnaby Joyce and other rural government MPs are regularly quoted as saying that dams are the solution and **“We are a government that has the ticker to build dams” - (Barnaby Joyce, May 2016)**

Their record of inaction speaks for itself:

- In 2011 a taskforce on dams was announced – nothing came of it

- In 2013 Tony Abbott planned to build “100 dams and harvest nation's riches” and on the same day Greg Hunt said “We have no proposal for 100 dams as such”.

- Over the years there have been a number of Green and White Papers announced with fanfare but still no dams built.

- More recently the Abbott Turnbull Morrison Government re-announced its 2013 proposal but the number of dams went from 100 to 9. This proposal was quickly questioned by stakeholders.

In 2013 Tony Abbott planned to build “100 dams and harvest nation's riches”. 5 years on and they still haven't built a single dam, let alone 100.

However, in the 5 years they have been in government they haven't built a single dam. It's farcical considering the government's claims and the spin they use in rural Australia.

In estimates it was revealed:

**Senator Gallacher:** *So if I go specifically to the Dams being a cornerstone of the Coalition's regional water policy, that is correct?*

**Senator Ruston:** *That is correct*

**Senator Gallacher:** *And how many dams have been completed in the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government's tenure?*

**Senator Ruston:** *Well, you have the answer Senator.*

**Senator Gallacher:** *It's zero.*

**Senator Ruston:** *Well, it's not zero because obviously we've had dams completed in Tasmania. There are dams that have progressed but it is under the purview and remit of the State Governments as to the speed to which these can occur...*

**However, the dams Senator Ruston was referring to were started by Labor.**

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government hasn't built a dam on the mainland or started any new ones in Tasmania.

Labor has also recently committed to dam projects in Northern Australia to:

- Upgrade the Burdekin Dam
- Build the Rookwood Weir

Construction of dams is serious and proposals have to stack up environmentally and commercially.

A site needs to be selected carefully - with the correct topography, rainfall and soil type. Environmental impacts and impact on neighbouring groundwater also need to be looked at to make sure it stacks up.

This Governments record on dams is a joke and the Australian people deserve more than spin.

## ENERGY POLICY

### WORKERS NEED JUST TRANSITION, NOT EMPTY PROMISES - Mark Butler/Conroy

**The importance of securing a just transition for coal workers and communities has been highlighted today with the release of "The Ruhr or Appalachia? Deciding the future of Australia's coal-fired power workers and communities" report by the CFMMEU today.**

The CFMMEU Ruhr or Appalachia report highlights the contrasting experience of Germany's Ruhr region and the USA's Appalachia region in dealing with the structural decline of coal. Cooperative planning with unions, government and industry, and putting in place policies to stagger closures, re-deploy workers and diversify industry are shown to be crucial in securing a transition like that of the Ruhr, which saw workers and communities maintain jobs and prosperity.

As the report makes clear, the alternative of refusing to plan or put in place transitional policies has been tried in Appalachia and other regions, with the results being intergenerational unemployment, poverty and social dysfunction and all the ill's that go with it.

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



It is unplanned, chaotic and costly transition which characterises the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government's approach of burying their head in the sand about inevitable coal plant closures. Not only has the Liberal Government failed to plan for future coal plant closures, they have failed to deliver significant support in response to coal plant closures that have occurred under their watch, like Northern in Pt Augusta and Hazelwood in the Latrobe Valley, and they even fought against the inclusion of a Just Transition clause in the Paris Agreement.

Australia's energy industry and electricity agencies are clear that our ageing coal plants will inevitably close, regardless of whether the Liberal party accepts and plans for closures or not. As Tony Maher, the President of the Mining and Energy Division of the CFMMEU *"We can wring our hands and say 'it's terrible' or we can put the workers and the communities first"*.

Labor will always stand with workers and communities, and deliver a Just Transition to coal communities.



## **ONE NATION IN CHARGE OF COALITION SKILLS POLICY - Cameron**

**One Nation claiming credit for the Coalition's so called 'bush wage' today just shows how beholden the Morrison Government is to the hard right of Australian politics.**

Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Apprenticeships, Senator Doug Cameron, said One Nation's grandstanding just confirms that the Coalition can't articulate a rational skills policy of its own.

"The Coalition has form when it comes to exploiting apprenticeships to buy votes," Senator Cameron said. "Former Senator Bob Day had his "Student Builder" pilot funded by the Coalition at a staggering cost of \$92,000 a head.

"If Senator Hanson has her way, the pilot will be expanded nation-wide and based on the Government's own targets, it will cost taxpayers in excess of \$11 billion in just four years."

On top of its \$3 billion cuts to vocational education, the Coalition's last budget cut a further \$270 million from apprenticeships as part of its deeply flawed Skilling Australians Fund.

"While Skills Minister Michaelia Cash is making expensive and damaging side-deals with cross-benchers, she is failing to negotiate an agreement on apprenticeship funding with the Victorian and Queensland governments," Senator Cameron said.

"Minister Cash's track record on apprenticeships is abysmal. Under her draconian Building Code, agreements can't be made between employers and employees that guarantee the employment of apprentices."

Labor is calling on Minister Cash to guarantee that no apprentice will be exploited under this scheme and won't undermine the good work being done by quality community-based apprenticeship employers already operating in regional and rural Australia.

"Senator Cash needs to come clean on any deals that have been done with One Nation for handing them this ill-conceived \$60 million scheme," he said.

## **GOVT FAILS MIGRANT WORKERS' \$1 BILLION WAGE THEFT – O'Connor/Neumann/Chesters**

**A new report has revealed more than 90 per cent of migrant workers have suffered appalling and inexcusable wage theft whilst working on a temporary visa in Australia with the scale of unpaid wages [said to be](#) over \$1 billion.**

The [report](#) *"Wage Theft in Silence: Why Migrant Workers Do Not Recover Their Unpaid Wages in Australia"* makes clear how the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government continues to fail some of the most vulnerable workers in Australia.

The report – based on the first large-scale national survey of temporary migrant workers – shows the systemic nature of wage theft occurring in Australia including:

- Only three in every 100 underpaid migrant workers in Australia went to the Fair Work Ombudsman;
- Out of those very few who reported, over half did not recover their unpaid wages; and
- Fewer than one in ten international students and backpackers took action to recover wages they were owed.

International students or backpackers should be coming to Australia to study or to experience a cultural exchange rather than creating an underclass of workers in Australia.

This latest report adds to the growing pile of evidence about how unscrupulous employers deliberately and knowingly exploit migrant workers because they know they won't complain.

Scandal after scandal has made it clear that worker exploitation and systematic wage theft is widespread and the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government have failed to stamp it out.

This exploitation must stop.

The out-of-touch Morrison Government has no concern or care when it comes to proper treatment of workers; they are only focussed on their own jobs.

In the absence of leadership from Morrison's Muppet Show, Labor will continue to lead the way to stamp out underpayment and exploitation of vulnerable workers in Australia.

Only Labor understands that fairness at work helps to drive a more productive, competitive and prosperous economy.

Rather than the race to the bottom on wages and conditions for all Australian workers we've seen under the Liberals, Labor is committed to protecting wages and conditions by cracking down on worker exploitation.

**'BUSH WAGE' WON'T MAKE UP FOR 140,000 LOST APPRENTICESHIPS – Cameron**  
The Coalition's \$60 million 'bush wage' announced in *The Australian* today is an ill-conceived Band-Aid on a vocational education system in crisis from the Liberal's \$3 billion cuts to the sector.

Senator Michaelia Cash's projection of 1,630 new apprenticeships will not make up for the 140,000 lost since the Coalition was elected.

In the Wagga Wagga district alone, where Senator Cash and Nationals leader Michael McCormack announced the policy, there are 1,108 fewer apprentices since the Liberals came to office.

In Senator Cash's home state of Western Australia, there are 9,615 fewer apprenticeships, including more than 7000 in trade occupations.

Under this policy, it would cost more than \$11 billion to reach the target of 300,000 apprenticeships set by the Government in its shrinking Skilling Australians Fund.

Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Apprenticeships, Doug Cameron said apprenticeships are a critical business investment and this policy simply encourages business to see them as a source of cheap labour.

"The evidence is clear that highly skilled apprenticeships provide excellent returns to employers," Senator Cameron said.

"Business owners should be committing to apprenticeships as part of their investment in the future of their business."

The so-called 'bush wage' is modelled on a One Nation thought bubble to justify capitulating on the Government's \$65 billion tax giveaway to the top end of town.

Senator Cameron said the policy is a direct play to stem Nationals voters bleeding to One Nation.

"The Nationals are on the nose in the bush due to their failure to deliver for regional and rural Australia, ongoing leadership tensions, its poor response to the drought, subservience to the coal lobby and recent infiltration by neo-Nazi groups," Senator Cameron said.

"The Coalition has failed regional Australia on vocational education, closing TAFE's, reducing apprenticeships and not providing the skilled workers rural businesses need.

"This ill-conceived, expensive of a One Nation policy by Senator Cash and Deputy PM McCormack is nothing more than a populist entreaty to people intending to vote against the Nationals and for One Nation."

The Liberals have severely damaged vocational education in Australia, cutting more than \$3 billion in funding, closing TAFE campuses around the country and allowing for-profit providers to charge thousands of students for courses they did not undertake.

"Under the Coalition, the vocational education system has been damaged by privatisation, poor regulation and unhealthy competition," Senator Cameron said.

"The 'bush wage' does nothing to address these systemic and widespread problems caused by the Coalition."

Within the first 100 days of being elected, a Shorten Labor government would conduct a once in a generation inquiry into the post-secondary education system.

Labor will also provide \$100 million to the Building TAFE for the Future Fund to revitalise campuses across Australia and waive upfront fees for 100,000 TAFE students, including 10,000 for early childhood educators.

And one in 10 Commonwealth-funded jobs will be filled by an Australian apprentice.

"By announcing this One Nation thought bubble, the Coalition has again shown its desperation to save itself at the expensive of sound, well-crafted and properly costed policy," Senator Cameron said.

### **THREATS OF PENALTY RATE CUTS TO SPREAD – O'Connor**

**Under Morrison and his Liberals, more Australian workers are facing potential pay cuts as their penalty rates come under threat.**

Clubs Australia will argue in the Fair Work Commission this week for the Clubs award to be merged into the Hospitality award, resulting in a cut to Clubs workers' penalty rates

On Tuesday in Gympie, in Scott Morrison's own electorate, clubs workers and the President of Tradies Gympie, Dennis McHugh, argued against workers receiving a pay cut. They know that penalty rates are not a luxury; they are what pays the bills and puts food on the table.

Tradies Gympie is one of more than 150 clubs who have written to the Fair Work Commission saying they do not support a cut to penalty rates. Labor has consistently warned of the risk that the cuts to penalty rates under the retail hospitality, fast food, restaurant and pharmacy awards will spread to other workers.

Make no mistake, the Liberals support cuts to penalty rates. Scott Morrison and his Liberals voted 8 times to support cuts to penalty rates.

When wages growth has hit record lows, there could not be a worse time to cut the wages of hard working Australians.

If elected a Shorten Labor Government will, in our first 100 days, restore penalty rates and legislate so they can never be cut again.

Australians deserve a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

## SOCIAL SERVICES

### **LIES ABOUT CENTRELINK WON'T IMPROVE CENTRELINK SERVICE – Husic**

**Morrison Government lies about Centrelink won't improve Centrelink service. The Morrison government has been caught lying in a desperate attempt to cover up the impact of its job cuts on Centrelink service.**

This week the Government told Australians that:

**"Centrelink staff numbers boosted by addition of an extra 2,750 jobs. Minister Keenan Media Release 30 October, 2018**

What they didn't tell people is that these aren't in-house jobs - they're a wave of privatised labour brought in by the government to clean up after cutting jobs and service.

All the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison governments have relied upon is bringing in thousands of contractors to prop up Centrelink.

And in a desperate attempt to convince the public about the value of privatised labour, the Morrison government referred to a report - conducted by consultants about Centrelink contractors - which miraculously concluded that Centrelink contractors are good value. Who knew?

Not surprisingly the government refuses to release the report to see if the claim stacks up against reality.

The reality that the Australian public has to confront is that the government's cutting and outsourcing of Centrelink jobs on a mass scale has coincided with huge blow outs in call wait times and payment wait times.

The public's view about the quality of Centrelink service is damning - captured in the Department of Human Service's latest annual report which showed that satisfaction with Centrelink has dropped from 50 per cent in 2016-17 to 46.5 per cent last financial year.

On top of this complaints about Centrelink rose from 168,709 to 236,563. This is a 40% increase year on year.

Centrelink is one of the most common touchpoints people have with the Government - but this Government's cuts and neglect mean that service horror stories are all too common.

We know the awful impact poor performances are having on older Australians who are waiting months to get their pensions processed.

That is why a Shorten Labor Government will invest in 1200 new permanent and full-time Department of Human Services staff around the country, improving waiting times and services Australians rely on.

### **GOVERNMENT STUFF UPS MAKE PEOPLE WAIT AGES FOR AGE PENSION – Husic**

**The Morrison Government forgot Australians are ageing - and so it didn't prepare for so many age pension applications.**

That's the shabby excuse it's providing to explain why thousands of older Australians have been forced to wait months to get their age pension processed.

Following wave after wave of staff cuts and contracting out, the Government admitted in Estimates last week it didn't have enough people to process age pension claims:

**"there is ... a back-up of demand of all people who would have in the normal course of events been able to lodge in July, they're all kicked over to lodge in January.**

**"So we get a spike of people and this will happen every two years, we'll now have to adjust our models about how we plan and staff for the work- load ... (because it is) not quite working for age pension when we get that six-month delay." - Human Services Department Secretary Renee Leon - Senate Estimates 25 October 2018**

The Morrison Government owes older Australians a massive apology for this stuff up - and for the way its job cuts in the Department of Human Services have hurt Australians. Any defence by the Government that they were caught unaware by the spike in age pension applications is a lame joke.

Remember: they have an ABS, a Census, various intergenerational reports and funded themselves to better predict demographic movements. The Government is also aware of what times of the year are highest for workload.

Because of this stuff up, over 5,000 older Australians are waiting longer than the 49 day age pension processing standard the government set for itself.

An Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government obsession with job cuts and outsourcing has helped create this mess. A Shorten Labor Government will invest in 1200 new jobs at Centrelink to build a stronger capability in the agency to better help Australians in need.

## HEALTH

### **MORRISON'S MEDICARE PRIVATISATION ATTACKS CONTINUE – Husic/Brown**

**The Morrison Government is taking another step in its ongoing attempts to privatise Medicare – shifting services that used to be completed by Medicare workers to labour hire placements.**

Medicare is the cornerstone of our universal health care system – but Morrison is outsourcing key functions to labour hire workers, with the first batch of workers starting in Hobart today.

The Liberals simply won't stop at their attempts to privatise Medicare.



This move shows that no matter what they say, the Government can't be trusted with Medicare. Their pledge that every Medicare service would be provided by government has already been broken:

*"...every element of Medicare's services delivered by government today will continue to be delivered by government in the future. Full stop."*

Morrison was Treasurer when the Liberals first attempted to privatise Medicare – this is the same plan but with a different means.

Does Scott Morrison back his Secretary of the Department of Human Services, who says that after slashing jobs at the Department of Human Services (DHS) - it was just "quick and convenient" to bring in privatised labour to Medicare:

*"It's a quick, convenient, flexible way to get some people in to do some work."*

Human Services Department Secretary

Renee Leon at Senate Estimates 25 October 2018

The jobs being placed into the hands of labour hire firms could - and should - be done by in-house DHS employees.

Last year 28,000 Australians applied for jobs in DHS.

Yet their hopes to obtain secure work to deliver quality service to the public were brushed aside.

That's because the Morrison government wanted to make a quick and convenient decision to bring in privatised labour.

And in the process it has quickly and conveniently broken a pledge to the Australian people to keep Medicare public.

We know the Liberals won't stop at their attempts to privatise Medicare. In contrast, a Shorten Labor Government will invest in new positions within DHS and will fight to keep Medicare public.

### **THALIDOMIDE SURVIVORS TO SHARE THEIR STORIES- King /Watt**

**Australia's thalidomide survivors will share their stories of pain and struggle during the first hearing of a Labor-initiated Senate inquiry on Friday.**

Labor asked the Senate to establish the inquiry to examine what support has been given to thalidomide survivors to date – and what more we could potentially do.

Thalidomide was a drug used in the early 1960s to treat morning sickness that caused birth defects in thousands of children worldwide – including dozens in Australia who were left with life-long disabilities.

Thalidomide survivors are fiercely and proudly independent despite the damage done by this drug.

However many survivors say they have been under-compensated by the drug makers and need more support as they age and their needs become more complex.

Some say they feel as if their pleas for help have gone unheard in recent years. This Senate inquiry is giving them a chance to tell their stories and outline their needs.

A number of other governments around the world – including Canada, Germany, Japan and the UK – have established statutory support schemes for their thalidomide survivors but Australia has not done so. England has also delivered a Parliamentary apology – but Australia has not.

The inquiry will determine whether there is anything more the Commonwealth can do to make sure thalidomide survivors can live with security and dignity in the decades ahead.

### **DR BRIAN OWLER TO STAND FOR LABOR IN BENNELONG – Shorten/Plibersek**

**The Australian Labor Party is pleased to announce that Dr Brian Owler has nominated to be Labor's candidate for Bennelong at the next federal election.**

Dr Owler is a neurosurgeon, former president of the Australian Medical Association and past president of the AMA NSW.

As President of the AMA, Dr Owler led the campaign against the Liberals' Medicare Freeze and GP Tax.



*"As a doctor, a surgeon and a health advocate, I've dedicated my career to caring for people and serving the community. I've seen the pressure that's been placed on hospitals and staff because of the Liberals' funding cuts, and I've seen how undermining Medicare is bad for patients and for GPs," Dr Owler said.*

*"I believe there is a critical choice at the next election over the future of health care in Australia. We can't risk more Liberal cuts to health care. That's why I'm putting my hand up. I want to pay tribute to our former candidate, Lyndal Howison. She is a formidable local campaigner with strong Labor values, and I'm pleased I'll be able to rely on her support and advice during the campaign.*

*"I want to represent Labor in Bennelong because only a Shorten Labor Government will prioritise Medicare and local hospitals, and provide a positive vision for Australia."*

Labor Leader Bill Shorten welcomed Dr Owler to the Labor team.

*"Labor believes it should be your Medicare card, not your credit card, that determines your access to health care in this country," Mr Shorten said. "Brian has spent his career fighting for quality, affordable health care, because he knows first-hand the difference it makes to people's lives. Brian lives and breathes Medicare and he'll be an outstanding addition to the party that created Medicare and defends it every day"*

Deputy Labor Leader Tanya Plibersek said a vote for Labor in Bennelong is a vote for better healthcare. *"The next election is a choice between protecting Medicare and hospitals, or more of the same Liberal cuts and chaos under Scott Morrison.*

*"The Liberals in Canberra have cut hospitals, frozen the Medicare rebate, and now they are outsourcing Medicare jobs to labour hire companies. Morrison and the Liberals will always attack Medicare. Bill Shorten and Labor will always protect it."*

## THE FARM

### LIVE EXPORT REPORT HIGHLIGHTS JOYCE WRECKING BALL – Fitzgibbon

The Moss Review [report](#) into the capability and culture of the live export regulator is a damning critique of Barnaby Joyce's reckless administration of the regulation of the live export trade.

It highlights the significant adverse impact of Joyce's decisions to abolish the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and the Animal Welfare Unit within the Department of Agriculture.

Labor welcomes the Government's decision to backflip and accept the recommendation to resurrect the position of Inspector General of Live Exports. Labor created the Inspector General position in 2013 but Joyce dropped the Statutory Officer following the 2013 election.

Joyce took a wrecking ball approach to the regulatory process and shocking events like the Awassi Express incident were to be expected.

Labor will take time to analyse the report and to fully consider the 32 recommendations, however, it must be noted that the report covers the performance of the regulator only.

The Prime Minister must also acknowledge that the former Agriculture Minister, Barnaby Joyce was allowed to make decisions not in the interest of the regulator or the agriculture department, but to create a culture of turning a blind eye to animal welfare matters. That this was a systematic problem allowed to perpetuate whether it was the Abbott, Turnbull or Morrison Governments.

Based on the evidence in the Moss Review Report the Prime Minister must take the time to consider other decisions Barnaby Joyce was allowed to make during his time as Agriculture Minister, particularly with regards to Drought reform and the forced relocation of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

## MEDIA

### CHILDREN'S TV DRAMA IN DECLINE UNDER LIBERALS - Rowland

The Screen Australia Drama Report 2017/18, released today, shows expenditure on Children's TV drama at well below the five-year average.

As a measure of the health of the screen industry, the report is cause for concern when it comes to Australian stories for Australian kids.

Labor is concerned that the failure of leadership on Australian content under the Liberal Government is causing uncertainty for industry and undermining content production.

Minister Fifield continues to sit on the report of the Australian and Children's Screen Content Review, despite having received it almost a year ago. After five years, the Liberal Government has failed to adapt the policy settings to ensure Australian children have access to a diversity of quality Australian content across platforms.



Labor acknowledges a number of factors are at play in the decline and urges the Minister to act to remove policy uncertainty as a factor. While Labor is encouraged that expenditure on Australian features and Australian TV drama is above the five year average, it is imperative we do not neglect children's content.

It's clear this out of touch Government needs to get its act together on children's content. Labor stands in support of quality children's content, which kids love and families rely on.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### FUTUREASIA: STRENGTHENING DIPLOMACY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC – Wong

A Shorten Labor Government will strengthen Australia's engagement in the Indo-Pacific region by establishing four new diplomatic posts and establishing a new category of geo-economic counsellor across our diplomatic network.

Australia's diplomatic effort is under-resourced for a country of our economic weight and status. While it has started to be rebuilt in recent years, we still need to invest more in our diplomatic efforts.

As a part of Labor's FutureAsia plan, we will establish four new posts in the Indo-Pacific region. Given the growing importance of Australia's relationship with Indonesia, a new post there will be a priority.

Labor will also establish a new category of geo-economic counsellor across our diplomatic network. Bangkok, Beijing, Hanoi, Jakarta, New Delhi, Tokyo and Washington will be important initial locations.

These new positions will identify improved ways of connecting and leveraging Australian private sector and civil society activities in the interests of broader foreign policy objectives.

They will also help to ensure our development, trade and diplomatic policies are integrated and that our development assistance programs across the region are visible to and coordinated with the various Australian enterprises operating there.

Labor will also provide an additional \$4 million to expand the existing Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grants program.

This additional funding will focus on Australia's cultural activities in Asia and the Pacific – helping to present to the region an accurate image of

who we are. It will also support more exchanges and partnerships with arts organisations here in Australia to promote greater collaboration in both performance and production.

One year ago, Labor announced a comprehensive policy approach to a deeper Asian engagement called FutureAsia.

A Shorten Labor Government is determined to do more than pay lip-service to the Asian century. At a time when Scott Morrison is using foreign policy as a political tool, Labor is doing the work to put in place the foundations for a more prosperous relationship with our region.

Labor has continued to develop a fundamental whole-of-government, nationwide strategy to deepen and broaden our engagement with Asia. These announcements build on our existing FutureAsia commitments aimed at elevating Australia's relationship with the Indo-Pacific including:

- Boosting the Asian capability of Australian boards, working with the Australian Institute of Company Directors
- Establishing the Australian-ASEAN Studies Centre
- Holding meetings of Asia-Pacific Finance Ministers in advance of the G20 Finance Ministers meeting
- Holding an annual 2 +2 of Australian and Indonesian Finance and Trade Ministers
- Making Asian languages and literacy a national priority.
- Invest \$32 million to strengthen Asian language and literacy education in schools.
- The development of a government-backed infrastructure investment facility to help meet the immense development needs of the Pacific and cement Australia's role in the region.

At a time of great disruption, and increasing focus on our region, Labor believes it is more important than ever that we have the capabilities and people on the ground to manage co-operative activities, strengthen engagement and realise our national interests.



### **NDIS FUNDING GAMES MUST STOP – Burney**

**Instead of focusing on getting the NDIS roll-out right, the Government has spent years playing unnecessary funding games.**

First the Liberals and Nationals held people with disability to ransom – wrongly trying to justify cuts to families, social security and vulnerable Australians in the name of the NDIS.

Then they wanted to increase the Medicare levy for people earning under \$80,000 – until they dropped the idea, saying it was unnecessary.

The Government also wanted to establish an NDIS Special Account – before this week scuttling this idea too.

“The Government has spent years on unnecessary and elaborate excuses to hold people with disability to ransom,” Linda Burney said.

“Scott Morrison needs to explain why his position on NDIS funding keeps changing. The Liberals and Nationals must promise never to use the NDIS like a political football ever again.

“Labor established and fully funded the NDIS – we are absolutely committed to it. A Labor Government would put all our effort into making the scheme work, not waste time frightening people with baseless claims of funding uncertainty.”



### **TIMELY REDRESS ESSENTIAL – Burney**

**Survivors of institutional child sexual abuse deserve to have their applications for redress processed quickly and accurately.**

[Reports](#) that a survivor has died while waiting for redress is a reminder of why this is so important.

Media reports also suggest that the Government lost his application.

At this time, our thoughts are with his family and friends.

To institutions who have not signed up to the scheme - you have a moral responsibility to do so immediately. And the government must make sure applications are processed properly, and in a timely manner.

Survivors have been through so much and have waited so long. It is absolutely imperative that we get the roll out of National Redress Scheme right.



### **COALITION DELAYS DRAIN CHARITIES' FUNDS AWAY – Leigh/Bilyk**

**The Coalition is costing the nation's charities millions of dollars by failing to update Australia's outdated fundraising laws.**

As Justice Connect's Sue Woodward [notes](#), “We still have regulations that talk about collection tins on poles that date back to collecting from people in horse-drawn carriages. Obviously this is ridiculous.”

At the same time, our patchwork of state and territory laws doesn't properly recognise the existence of the internet and mobile phones.

Most important, Australia lacks uniform national fundraising laws. Charities who raise money online are placed in the invidious position of either



spending a week doing the paperwork to register in every state and territory, or just registering locally, and hoping they don't get caught.

Labor established the *Senate Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* because we want to work with charities, not against them.

Outdated laws pose a systemic risk to the charity sector. In Britain, charitable fundraising scandals over recent years led to a collapse in trust in charities. Yet each of the six charity ministers that have served in the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government seems to think the status quo is OK.

While former Minister Sukkar was marshalling votes for Peter Dutton in the Liberal party room, Australia's charity fundraisers were counting the dollars they were wasting keeping up with out of date fundraising laws.

Charities have been calling for fundraising reform for decades, but this latest battle began on May 31, when Michael Sukkar received the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission's report into the sector.

[Labor called on the Minister](#) to release the report and not leave charities in the dark over the Parliamentary winter break. Yet it took almost two months for Mr Sukkar to release the review – on [August 22](#), the last day possible. A week later, he was gone from the job.

It's now been almost five months since the ACNC review first landed on the minister's desk and charities are still waiting for new minister – Zed Seselja – to respond. With the reporting burden estimated at \$15 million annually, this equates to a slug on charities of over \$6 million since the Coalition got the report.

Like his five predecessors, Senator Seselja is out of touch with the charities that Australians trust. He needs to end the ongoing delays that are doing real damage to one of the most trusted sectors in the country.

No wonder two-thirds of Australian charities told a Pro Bono survey that they are finding it harder to be heard by the federal government than five years ago.

Labor urges the Coalition to fix charitable fundraising before more money is drained away from our nation's charities. This Government's record on dams is a joke and the Australian people deserve more than spin.



## DECENTRALISATION POLICY LET DOWN FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA - Jones

Shadow Minister for Regional Services Stephen Jones says that despite all the "big talk" last year, the Coalition's decentralisation policy is a massive let down for regional cities.

In Senate Estimates current Minister for Decentralisation, Bridget McKenzie conceded that the government's decentralisation policy is no longer about moving whole departments, contrary to what former Minister Fiona Nash first outlined:

***"In terms of those proposals in front of me for my consideration, and consideration of government, none of them include a whole department"*** - ***Senator Bridget McKenzie - Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Monday, 22 October 2018***

When it was announced by former Minister for Decentralisation, Fiona Nash in April last year, it promised to move entire departments to regional Australia.

***"I'll be responsible for creating a template for government Ministers to assess which departments are suitable for decentralisation by mid-year. Departments will need to either indicate that they're suitable to move to the regions or justify why all or part of their operation is unsuitable. All portfolio Ministers will need to report back to Cabinet by August on which of their departments are suitable to be moved to regional Australia, and relevant Ministers will need to report to Cabinet with robust business cases for decentralisation by December."***  
- ***Senator Fiona Nash – National Press Club, Wednesday, 19 April 2017***

The National Party's flagship regional policy has failed to deliver at every step.

When the policy was first announced, it created high expectations in regional Australia – but the policy has been a massive let down. So far, not even 100 public sector jobs have been earmarked for relocation under this policy.

Even worse, only 16 of the 98 jobs earmarked for decentralisation will go to a non-capital city and over 80 per cent of jobs will move from one capital city to another including:

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

It's the latest example that shows the Morrison Government's plans for decentralisation lack any substance.

Minister McKenzie says she's hoping to make more announcements in the near future, but the Government's track record means regional Australia shouldn't hold its breath.



## NETBALL AUSTRALIA WILL CONTINUE TO SCORE – Shorten/Farrell/Ryan

A Shorten Labor Government will make the biggest investment ever in Australian netball by a federal government, committing \$20 million over two years to Netball Australia.

This investment will help fund a range of Netball Australia's grassroots participation and engagement programs, and ensure a strong future for netball in Australia – from local netball clubs, to our Super Netball stars and our outstanding national team, the Diamonds.

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



The funding will also support Netball Australia's bid to host the 2027 Netball World Cup in Australia.

Labor's commitment is great news for more than 850,000 women and girls who participate in netball, and will ensure that both grassroots and elite netball gets the best support it has ever received from government.

Netball has the highest rate of female participation of any club sport in Australia. AusPlay research released in April this year showed netball is particularly important for girls' participation in organised activity outside of school hours. The benefits of team sport for kids is well known, particularly for girls in helping to develop confidence and self-esteem, learn new skills and make new friends.

The rapid rise of elite female sport in Australia is a great thing. It means Australian girls are seeing more sporting role models more often on the TV, and are inspired to take up sport themselves.

But it also means that netball isn't competing on a level playing field in television coverage and sponsorship space. While the expansion and broadcast of women's footy and cricket has been supported by revenue generated by their elite male competitions, this is not an option for netball.

Labor's \$20 million investment will ensure that netball, which has done so much for women's sport for so long, can keep pace with the rapid expansion of elite women's competitions in other sports.

Labor has made hard budget decisions to ensure our priorities are fully paid for – we will make multinationals pay their fair share and close unsustainable tax loopholes, because we want to help a new generation of young girls fall in the love with netball and inspire the next generation of Aussie Diamonds.



**Dear Claire,**

**Thank you for becoming a supporter of Australia's  
FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ Bid.**

**Help us to get Australia #Onside  
by sharing links with your family and friends:**

**Share on Facebook**

**Share on Twitter**

**VETERANS**

### **LABOR WELCOMES VETERANS ANNOUNCEMENT – Rishworth**

**Labor welcomes any announcement that provides greater recognition to veterans and their families including the further funding for Kookaburra Kids Defence Program.**

Having served their country, our ex-service personnel and their families deserve our support. Labor wants to see more detail on how the government's veterans card will deliver for veterans.

Questions remain about how much the federal government is actually committing, which companies will actually sign up, what discounts will be available, which veterans are eligible and what responsibilities will the states and territories have over the administration of the card.

We want to be sure that a veterans card will deliver tangible benefits to our veterans.

However if Scott Morrison was serious about supporting our veterans he wouldn't have ripped \$40 million of funding from veterans critical allied and dental health services for our veterans when he was Treasurer. Senate Estimates confirmed this week that Morrison's cuts will result in less services for veterans.

Labor has already announced a number of policies support our veterans including:

- Committing to signing Australia's first Military Covenant;
- **announced** \$121 million to a comprehensive Veterans' Employment Program;
- will develop a Family Engagement and Support Strategy;
- will Establish the Western Front Fellowship;
- established the Senate Inquiry into the use of anti-malarials in the ADF;
- and has called for the Inclusion of Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation in the Banking Royal Commission.

Labor is committed to delivering real outcomes for our ex-service personnel, veterans and their families.

### **GOVT SLOW TO MOVE ON CRUCIAL CONSUMER AFFAIRS REFORMS – Madeleine King**

**The Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs, Madeleine King MP, has expressed her disappointment with the shambolic Liberal government, for their silence on crucial consumer affairs law reforms.**

Friday's (26 October) Consumer Affairs Forum resulted in some wins for consumers, but there was unsatisfactory movement on several important areas of consumer law, including: pay day lending, paper billing fees and ticket reselling.

"This government is not doing enough to protect Australian consumers. The Labor Party has been leading on consumer affairs policy for years," Ms King said. "The Labor Party introduced a Private Member's Bill to reform payday lending and rent-to-buy laws that was an exact copy of the Government's own draft legislation, but the Government has failed to do anything other than delay reforms in this area."

"Now the Convenor of the Liberal Parliamentary Friends of Pay Day Lending, Assistant Treasurer Stuart Robert, wants to wait until after the Banking Royal Commission ends, despite the Government backing the recommendations of the Small Amount Credit Contracts 676 days ago!"



"The Labor Party is also calling for a ban on paper billing fees for vulnerable consumers, but changes to the law have been delayed another 12 months."

And while Ms King welcomed the Forum's decision to require ticket resale websites to disclose the face value of tickets and that the website is not a primary ticket seller, she said "Reforms to ticket reselling laws need to go further to protect Australian consumers."

The Forum was already delayed nearly 2 months because of Liberal Party leadership turmoil. This useless Liberal Government has failed to show any leadership on key consumer law reform and continues to fail Australian consumers.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Legislative and Governance Forum on Consumer Affairs released [their communique](#) following their meeting on Friday 26 October.

## **IMMIGRATION**

### **A Good Society**

**Tony Burke – Excerpt from ADDRESS TO THE SETTLEMENT SERVICES INTERNATIONAL METROPOLIS CONFERENCE**

*"It was I think 12 years ago. I was in the Opposition, as I am now - there was a happier period in-between. I held the immigration portfolio. It was a time when settlement services in Australia weren't running as well as they are now.*

*There was a man on his first night in Australia who had arrived with his family. From the service that wasn't as good as what we have now, he was shown where the stove was, where the rice was and shown where the telephone was.*

*One of his daughters was quite ill and on this first night, they looked around for a while, trying to work out where they can light a fire. They couldn't work out how to light a fire and so they ate raw rice as their first meal in Australia.*

*But it was a couple of nights later when his daughter had a seizure and for the first time he went to the telephone that he had been shown, picked it up only to discover that there wasn't a voice on the other end.*

*He ended up walking through the streets of the suburb he was in calling out to people for help. We had only just started up opening up our humanitarian program to people from Africa. So he was calling out in a language that none of his neighbours understood.*

*His daughter didn't make it.*

*That's what the welcome to Australia becomes if we get settlement wrong.*

*The work that is done by the people in this room is extraordinary, just extraordinary.*

*No government can do what you do because you provide that human face. You provide that direct personal engagement that no briefing note will match, no file will match."*

*"About two years ago the voices of hatred started to get elected in our Parliaments again.*

*How we handle that won't define what my day-to-day life is like, because I will never be a victim of hate speech in this country.*

*But how we handle that will determine whether or not people who start to get pushed to the margins feel that they have truly arrived in a place that didn't want them.*

*There used to be a phrase in Australian politics that was coined by Laurie Oakes that was called 'dog whistle politics' - the concept that you could send out a coded message and most people wouldn't hear it but the person you really wanted to hear it, they'd know you are on their*



side.

*It doesn't happen anymore. There are no dog whistles in Australian politics now, people know exactly what is going on and they are feghorns.*

*They are loud, angry feghorns.*

*And against that, the voices of decency and the voices of unity have to prevail.*

*I want all these things to be bipartisan - they used to be - and I believe in the future they will be again.*

*"As well as the wonderful words of the citizenship pledge that Senator Reynolds read out earlier there is also a Minister's message that changes with each Minister.*

*The final words of the message that I had as Minister were the words 'welcome home'; the last message that would be given to people from the government before they became citizens.*

*Those words were removed and haven't been put back. I hope no matter who is in government at some point, the words 'welcome home' come back."*



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beUplifted Inc  
Breast Cancer Charity  
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Saturday,  
10<sup>th</sup> November  
at Burnie Brae  
Community Centre  
60 Kuran St,  
Chermside QLD  
4032

Doors open at  
11.30am -  
Start time  
1.00pm

Over  
100  
great prizes  
to be won

Entry \$5  
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## CURRENT SENATE INQUIRIES – AS OF FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 2018

### Community Affairs Legislation Committee

- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Maintaining Income Thresholds\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Encouraging Self-sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants\) Bill 2018](#)

### Community Affairs References Committee

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

### Economics References Committee

- [New Credit and financial services targeted at Australians at risk of financial hardship](#)
- [Financial and tax practices of for-profit aged care providers](#)
- [The Commitment to the Senate issued by the Business Council of Australia](#)



- [Regional Inequality in Australia](#)
- [Consumer protection in the banking, insurance and financial sector](#)
- [Non-conforming building products](#)

#### **Economics Legislation Committee**

- **New** [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Making Sure Every State and Territory Gets Their Fair Share of GST\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Making Sure Multinationals Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Design and Distribution Obligations and Product Intervention Powers\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Making Sure Foreign Investors Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures\) Bill 2018; Income Tax \(Managed Investment Trust Withholding Tax\) Amendment Bill 2018; Income Tax Rates Amendment \(Sovereign Entities\) Bill 2018](#)

#### **Education and Employment Legislation Committee**

- **New** [Higher Education Support Amendment \(Cost Recovery\) Bill 2018, and the Higher Education Support \(Charges\) Bill 2018](#)

#### **Education and Employment References Committee**

- [The appropriateness and effectiveness of the objectives, design, implementation and evaluation of jobactive](#)
- [The exploitation of general and specialist cleaners working in retail chains for contracting or subcontracting cleaning companies](#)
- [The high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers](#)

#### **Environment and Communications Legislation Committee**

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

#### **Environment and Communications References Committee**

- **New** [The allegations of political interference in the Australian Broadcasting Corporation \(ABC\)](#)
- [Impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia](#)
- [Gaming micro-transactions for chance-based items](#)
- [Australia's faunal extinction crisis](#)
- [Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program](#)
- [Australian content on broadcast, radio and streaming services](#)
- [Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities](#)

#### **Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

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

#### **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee**

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

#### **Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee**

- [Use of the Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#)

#### **Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee**

- [Freedom of Information Legislation Amendment \(Improving Access and Transparency\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia \(Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions\) Bill 2018, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Bill 2018](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Censorship\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Insult and Offend\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Security\) Bill 2018](#)
- [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 effectiveness of the current temporary skilled visa system in targeting genuine skills shortages](#)
- [The practice of dowry and the incidence of dowry abuse in Australia](#)

#### **Red Tape Committee**

- [The effect of red tape on private education policy and process to limit and reduce red tape](#)

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

- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)

#### **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee**

- **New** [The independence of regulatory decisions made by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority \(APVMA\)](#)
- [The operation, regulation and funding of air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities](#)
- [The integrity of the water market in the Murray-Darling Basin](#)

#### **Select Committee into the obesity epidemic in Australia**

- [Obesity Epidemic in Australia](#)

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

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

#### **Select Committee on Electric Vehicles**

- [Electric Vehicles](#)

#### **Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education**

- [Stillbirth Research and Education](#)

#### **Standing Committee of Privileges**

- **New** [Development of a foreign influence transparency scheme to apply to parliamentarians](#)
- **New** [Possible improper interference with a Senator in the free performance of his duties](#)
- **New** [Disposition of material obtained in the execution of a search warrant](#)