



## Senator Claire Moore

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2018**

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### **THIS WEEK:**

*The Labor Party National Conference is being held in Adelaide starting on Sunday and finishing on Tuesday. This is a rescheduled date as our National Conference was to be held at the end of July which is when the Super Saturday by-elections were held across the country.*

*Obviously someone in the Liberal Party thought that was a good idea and we saw how great that worked out for them.*

*Our national conference will give delegates the opportunity to talk about policy which will form the basis for what we will be campaigning on in next year's election.*

*There will be media coverage for the conference – no doubt it will be closely monitored - as we allow the media to cover all of the debate and discussions on policy – unlike other parties we are happy to let people see our deliberations.*

*Our members have had the opportunity to share with delegates issues that are important to them.*

*We have had many members who have contacted us talking about the environment, health, indigenous rights, education, worker's rights, refugee rights and even some talking about international development – this is an important part of our process.*

*There will be debate, followed by feedback after the conference, although with the holiday season so close it may take a little bit of time before we see the final platform released.*

*We all know next year is an election year and that there is immense pressure on the Leader.*

*As you would know I always advocate sending messages of support and good wishes so I would ask you let Bill know he has your support and we are all with him.*

*Next week we will have the last Update of the year and then be back on deck early in the New Year.*

**SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND**

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



### CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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## WHAT'S BEING SAID ...



### **NATIONAL INTEGRITY COMMISSION - SHORTEN – PRESS CONFERENCE MELBOURNE**

*“Mr Morrison's proposal is not a fair dinkum Anti-Corruption Commission, it is too limited in scope, too limited in power, and it has no transparency. I also think that Mr Morrison should explain to the Australian people why he wants to set up a National Anti-Corruption Commission, which curiously exempts himself and the current government from any scrutiny by the new Anti-Corruption Commission.”*

### **NATIONAL INTEGRITY COMMISSION - DREYFUS –ABC NEWS 24**

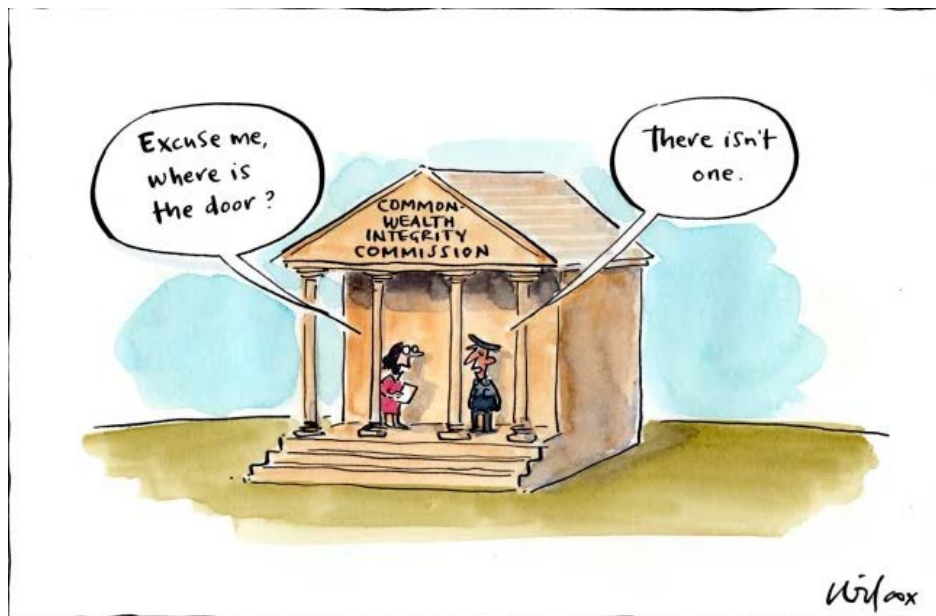
*“We're disappointed that the Government has produced a model which has got limited scope, limited powers and no transparency,”*

### **NATIONAL INTEGRITY COMMISSION - SHORTEN – PRESS CONFERENCE MELBOURNE**

*“I'm afraid that one can only draw the conclusion that the Government's heart is not in having a fair dinkum Anti-Corruption Commission. It's too little, too late.”*

### **NATIONAL INTEGRITY COMMISSION - DREYFUS- PRESS CONFERENCE MELBOURNE**

*“We had the Prime Minister himself saying this was a “fringe issue” just a matter of weeks ago in the Parliament. We had Christopher Pyne saying on the 19th of November, he said “I don't think that's necessary”.*



### **MORRISON'S HEALTH FUNDING PROMISE - SHORTEN-MELBOURNE**

*“So we've had five years of Liberal Government and we've seen what they've done. They've cut \$4 billion from public hospitals, waiting lists for elective surgery have blown out, and when it comes to a patient going to see a doctor, the rebate they get from seeing the doctor has been frozen.”*

### **MORRISON'S HEALTH FUNDING PROMISE - KING – MELBOURNE**

*“And now, Scott Morrison would have you believe that by putting a fraction of that money back in, and making communities bid for that money across the country, that somehow that is going to fix the crisis that he has created in his public hospital system.”*

### **MORRISON'S HEALTH FUNDING PROMISE - SHORTEN-MELBOURNE**

*“I find this morning's announcements by the current Prime Minister insult the intelligence of the Australian people. Do they really think that people in Australia forget that something like \$4 billion has been taken out of public hospitals in the last five years of Liberal government? Do they really think that people are going to forget the cuts to health care, the waiting lists for elective surgery, by simply putting back \$1 billion? If you take \$4 billion out over five years from public hospitals, putting a little bit over \$1 billion back doesn't really fill the gap, does it.”*

### **ENERGY POLICY - BUTLER-ADELAIDE**

*“This morning we've heard an announcement of the eleventh energy policy from this Government since the 2016 election; eleven energy policies in less than two and a half years to deal with a very deep energy crisis that has emerged under this Government, gripping households and Australian businesses. But to call this an energy policy announcement is a generous act.”*

### **ENERGY POLICY - BUTLER-ADELAIDE**

*“This is a desperate act of ideology to throw billions of taxpayers' dollars to new coal-fired power stations that investors simply won't touch with a barge pole. The ideology and the desperation is also reflected in the fact that every form of generation is able to bid for these taxpayers dollars except for renewable energy.”*

### **ENERGY POLICY - BUTLER-ADELAIDE**

*“Coincidentally, Snowy Hydro and TAS Hydro also have announcements this afternoon about their pumped hydro projects. It is important to say that if Angus Taylor's coal plan goes ahead then those pumped hydro projects simply will not proceed. Snowy Hydro has made it clear, in testimony to the Australian Parliament, that building a new coal-fired power station would make Snowy Hydro 2.0, to use their words, “unviable.”*

### **A RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION ACT -BUTLER –ABC RN BREAKFAST**

*“We have no opposition in principle to the idea of a separate piece of legislation but obviously we'll want to look at the recommendations in the Ruddock Review and the proposed draft legislation. We will take our time to do that in the usual way.”*

### **SCHOOL CHILDREN DISCRIMINATION- BUTLER –ABC RN BREAKFAST**

*“We're also very opposed to the idea reported this morning that this question, far from being resolved quickly, will be referred to the Law Reform Commission for a report that would in the ordinary course of things take at least 12 months, so students facing the prospect of at least another full school year open to discrimination in religious schools.”*

### **CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY - BUTLER –ABC RN BREAKFAST**

*“We are really the only major advanced economy where carbon pollution or greenhouse gases are going up, rather than coming down. You're right this week, an annual international report, the Climate Change Performance Index, ranked us 55 out of 60 nations. We are doing worse than Vladimir Putin's Russia on climate change policy, which is I think an appalling indictment on this Government.”*

### **POPULATION - DREYFUS – ABC RADIO MELBOURNE**

"I was struck by media reports that came out of COAG today that said the Prime Minister's handpicked immigration expert had told state premiers that cutting immigration will hurt the economy that apparently prompted laughter. I haven't heard any convincing arguments that we should suddenly, massively reduce the number of people who are coming here. The Prime Minister's immigration expert today, Peter McDonald, said the number should be kept at around 200,000.

### **BUDGETS - BOWEN – SYDNEY**

"The OECD points out that there's no room for complacency with the Budget surplus. They've called for ongoing tax reform. There's only one party going to this election with a tax reform agenda and that's the Labor Party. Tackling the unsustainable and unfair tax concessions in our system, seeking a mandate for important tax reforms, as the Liberal-National Morrison Government simply engages in silly scare campaigns."

### **STOPPING THE BOATS - BURKE – SKY NEWS**

"I heard David Coleman, at the end of his interview just before me then where he claimed temporary protection visas were an essential pillar in stopping the boats. Temporary protection visas didn't exist when the boats were stopped. They were introduced sometime after. To say now that they are a central pillar is bizarre. He then said that this will end offshore processing as we know it, since when was offshore processing dependent on ignoring medical advice?" [In case you don't know who David Coleman is – he's the silent Minister, Minister for Immigration. – David Margan, Editor]



### **BORDER PATROLS BUDGET BLOW-OUT - SHORTEN-MELBOURNE**

"What sort of ramshackle outfit is the government running when they say that they are cancelling vessels working up on the North West and the Torres Strait because they can't pay the fuel bills?"

### **NEGATIVE GEARING REFORM - BOWEN – ABC 7.30 REPORT**

"Around the country between 2012 and today, housing prices have gone up by 40 per cent and have fallen now by 4 per cent. So yes, there is some softening but let's keep it in context. Labor's reforms are carefully designed, fully grandfathered, so no existing investment is impacted in any way, which was designed to carefully to avoid any shock to the system."

WHEN YOUR NEW DAD CAVES IN, AT THE RESCUE WATCHDOG SHELTER...



### **INDIGENOUS VOICE - SHORTEN-MELBOURNE**

"After 230 years of not listening to our First Australians, I think the time has well and truly arrived that we consult with our First Australians about decisions which affect them. It's why we support a Voice to Parliament."

### **ENCRYPTION - SWAN – ABC NATIONAL WRAP**

"The fact is that they are prepared to play with national security for political reasons and I think Australians should be very concerned about the extent to which they are trying to politicize these essential issues of national security."

### **EMPLOYMENT - O'CONNOR- NATIONAL PRESS CLUB**

"Precarious employment is growing. It's one of the biggest concerns that working people have. They can't get home loans because they're seen to be casual. They can't get car loans even. Banks don't issue loans to people who can't say they have got guaranteed income. So we have to do better."

### **CASUAL EMPLOYMENT - PLIBERSEK – MELBOURNE**

"This is a government that snuck in some regulations at the end of last week to try and reduce conditions for casuals, and now we hear that she's about, sometime in the future, improving conditions for casuals. And this is a government that has done everything it can to keep wages low to protect insecurity in our industrial relations system, insecurity for workers that is, and to continue to put all of the power into the hands of employers."

### **INDUSTRY BARGAINING - O'CONNOR- NATIONAL PRESS CLUB**

"We've had the government suggest that there's a correlation between industry bargaining and incidence of industrial disputation. The evidence doesn't bear it out. In fact, if you look at Europe, the best economies with industry bargaining do not have high incidences of industrial disputation."

## WAGE JUSTICE - O'CONNOR- NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

"What worries us most of all is there are huge proportions of the labour market missing out on any decent outcomes. And it's going to get worse if we do nothing. It's going to get worse and I don't want to see this country's inequality widen."

## ADANI- BURKE – SKY NEWS

"There are a series of problems with this project but the only commitment I will make, and I will fiercely resist conference pushing through anything else, is that we will apply Australian environmental law; something this Government has been pretty lax at doing so."

## QUOTES OF THE WEEK

*"In the past 50 years, only the Howard government had collected more tax than this one as a proportion of the economy. Deloitte estimates that taxes are growing at 10 per cent nominal growth this year alone." - Jim Chalmers (skewering the Coalition lie that Labor is the tax hike party)*

*What are they doing? They're transferring everyone off, and just pretending they're not. Everything is secret in this Government, everything. They don't tell you anything. - Brendan O'Connor*

*"The 21st Century is the century of rail." - Anthony Albanese*

*"One of my highs is having the benefit of listening to Christopher's (Pyne) extraordinary optimism, as all around him goes to absolute rubbish." --- Anthony Albanese*

*"I've always seen parliament as a disadvantage for governments." -- Peter Dutton*

*"If it came into existence as he proposes, it would be a failure. This is not the right model." - Ian Temby QC on Prime Minister Morrison's proposed National Integrity Commission. The NSW ICAC was the first independent commission against corruption in this country. I was the original ICAC commissioner, between 1984 and 1989.*

*"The Opposition is off on some sort of fringe issue" - Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Labor's call for a National Integrity Commission – 26/11/18*

## GLIMPSES

### DUTTON - THE SMUGGLER - Michael Pascoe (The New Daily)

For all the government's tough-on-asylum-seekers rhetoric, protection visa applications have blown out to record numbers on Peter Dutton's watch.

The people smugglers are doing more business than ever. The difference is that their clients are arriving by plane rather than boat and are less likely to be genuine refugees.

The Home Affairs Department website shows 27,931 protection visa applications were made in the latest financial year by plane arrivals. The previous record number of asylum seekers was 26,845 in the 2012-13 financial year when 18,365 protection visa applications were made for boat arrivals and 8480 for those who came by plane.

Over the weekend, the federal government continued its campaign of trying to paint Labor as "soft" on border protection, feeding compliant media outlets with allegations that admitting a relatively small number of asylum seekers from Nauru and Manus Island on medical grounds would mean people convicted of murder and rape could enter Australia. But in the past four years since the government "stopped the boats", 64,362 protection visa applications have been made by unvetted individuals who have arrived by plane while Scott Morrison and Peter Dutton were the relevant ministers. That compares with a total of 44,581 protection visa applications for boat arrivals over the previous five years. And a former Immigration Department deputy secretary, Abul Rizvi, predicts the latest record will be broken this financial year, blaming the surge on the "chaos" in Mr Dutton's Home Affairs department.

### WISDOM

When asylum seekers looked to an affluent Australia for hope, it was disappointing to see some were treated with "hatred" and weren't even allowed to set foot on its shores, said activist Malala Yousafzai. Yet when the Taliban came for Ms Yousafzai's family in Pakistan, her family was given sanctuary by friends, family, strangers, true to the country's culture of welcoming those in need. The 21-year-old activist – who in 2014 became the youngest Nobel Laureate in history – attacked Australia's offshore processing of refugees on Manus Island and Papua New Guinea as being out of touch with its people's warm and welcoming nature.

"I was a bit disappointed for a long time now, following the news on Australia and how they are treating refugees, especially children, especially young people, who are going through a lot of mental issues," said Ms Yousafzai. She is releasing a book on refugees, *We Are Displaced*, next month.

"Australia is a welcoming and warm country. And when you look at the immigration policies, they do not actually represent the people of Australia," she said.

"[Refugees] want safety, they want homes, they want somebody to give them protection, and then suddenly you welcome them with hatred," she said.



"You do not even allow them to land or step their feet on Australia," she said referring to the offshore processing of asylum seekers. "So I think it is disappointing and I hope that the people of Australia do stand up for refugees and show their true human-side."

#### QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED – David Margan



Over the last 10 days, the media has scrambled to get any answer of depth to the questions that have arisen after the arrest of Hakeem Al-Araibi. Al-Araibi is a Bahraini semi-professional soccer player who was granted refugee status in Australia last year. He was arrested when entering Thailand for a holiday with his wife, despite receiving approval for the trip from the Australian government.

It seems no government department comms teams will explain why the refugee was subject to the Interpol red notice, and lawyers in Australia and overseas say the act contravenes Interpol's own regulations. The act of issuing red notices against refugees on behalf of the country they fled from (in Al-Araibi's case, Bahrain) is banned.

It's clear that Home Affairs sent Hakeem on his way then incorrectly and perhaps illegally told Bahrain officials – disgracefull! No they refuse to comment claiming it's now all a matter for Thai officials – what arrogant bunkum.

#### CORPORATE MALFEASANCE



Shadow assistant treasurer Andrew Leigh said the latest ATO data showed 722 out of 2,109 companies paid no tax.

"Australians don't want the world's biggest tax loopholes, they want the best schools and hospitals," he said.

Oxfam Australia chief executive Dr Helen Szoke said it was an "unjust reality" that one-in-three large companies paid not a single cent of tax in 2016-17.

"So long as the Government refuses to take necessary, tougher measures on tax transparency and the hidden owners of companies and trusts to further crack down on tax avoidance, large companies will continue to get away with not paying their fair share of taxes," she said.

"This practice is fuelling poverty and inequality, not just in Australia, but around the world."

The Tax Justice Network's Mark Zirnsak said foreign-owned multinational corporations made up 36 per cent of the corporate income in Australia but only generated 18 per cent of reportable profits.

#### BABIES

The fertility rate of Australian women aged 35 years and over continues to rise, however the rate is falling in most other age groups according to the latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

In the past 30 years, the fertility rate of women aged 35-39 has more than doubled in 2017, and for women aged 40-44 it has tripled. In contrast, teenage fertility nearly halved during this period.

Current figures also show women aged 30-34 continue to have the highest fertility, followed by women ages 25-29.

ABS Director of Demography, Anthony Grubb, said: "The long-term decline in fertility of younger mums as well as the continued increase in fertility of older mums reflects a shift towards late childbearing. Together, this has resulted in a rise in median age of mothers and a fall in Australia's total fertility rate."

A total of 309,142 births were registered in Australia in 2017, resulting in a total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.74 babies per woman, the lowest since 2001.

#### BYE, BYE

The Coalition government's primary vote is at its lowest point in Newspoll history five months out from a federal election. Scott Morrison said he would use the "comeback" of South Australian steel town Whyalla as inspiration to turn around the polls. An analysis of Newspolls since 1987 shows no Coalition government has recorded a primary vote five months before an election as low as the Morrison government's 35 per cent, as recorded in the final Newspoll of the year

#### TRUTH

Prime Minister Morrison also has a fondness for denying the truth – take his insistence that power prices are coming down on his watch .... An update by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) of the consumer price index shows a spike in the past 12 months in how much of an average Australian's weekly shopping basket is going towards electricity expenses. The ABS weights national spending patterns so it can track the inflation rate, taking into account changed prices and consumption trends. As recently as 2005, just 1.6 per cent of a household's spending went towards electricity. Last year, this had climbed to almost 2.2 per cent. Over the past 12 months, the share of electricity climbed by 17 per cent to now account for 2.5 per cent of household spending. ABS chief economist Bruce Hockman said recent higher electricity prices and a lift in residential construction meant they now accounted for more spending by most Australians. In its annual report on electricity retailer performance, the Australian Energy Regulator found the level of energy debt was rising as higher power bills in 2018 put more pressure on households. "Energy became less affordable in 2017-18," AER board member Jim Cox said. He said the number of households being disconnected had also risen. Electricity is not the only form of energy on which Australians are spending more. The share of spending given over to gas lifted by 8 per cent, more than double the increase in new dwelling purchase costs.

#### AND MORE ... Jim Chalmers (Opinion piece in 'The Australian')

"Spending has been higher under the Liberals than the previous Labor government, and is projected to be higher under this government across the forward estimates to 2021-22 as well. Next, even with the budget being dragged into the black by a resurgent global economy, with billions of dollars rolling through the door, the Liberals have seen debt skyrocket.

Under the Liberals, net debt has more than doubled to record highs, and gross debt has crashed through a half-trillion dollars for the first time in the country's history – almost double what they inherited.

Morrison and co can't point to a suite of policies responsible for the improvement in the budget position – it's all automatic on the back of improved global conditions.

The Liberals famously promised "we will deliver a surplus in our first year and every year after that", and were elected on the back of a promise to pay down debt.

They are failing their own tests that they have set for themselves, and they are out of excuses."

## THE COST OF NO POLICY



Australia's inadequate domestic gas supply means households on the east coast are paying two-three times more for gas than the average US household while businesses are becoming uncompetitive, threatening investment and jobs, according to a Dow Chemical sponsored report. The analysis from the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, to be released on Wednesday, found that Australia and the US have experienced starkly different fortunes since 2008 due to huge discrepancies in their energy costs. It found that while a Melbourne based manufacturer is paying 177 per cent more for gas than it was 10 years ago, a competitor in New York, which has benefited from a boom in shale gas, is paying 41 per cent less. The US has seen a revival in manufacturing and economic growth, while Australia is facing an "energy crisis", putting households and businesses under stress and threatening the existence of some large industrial users of energy.

The report, which is also backed by Chemistry Australia, exposes the risks to jobs from a further increase in prices, finding that some 33,000 fulltime employees in Australia would lose their jobs if gas and electricity prices rise by 25 per cent, while the economy would lose about \$19 billion. It says Australia has to change its energy policy settings or face serious consequences, singling out manufacturing, chemicals and steel as the sectors most at risk. "If Australia's energy policy settings do not change, many Australian firms will be forced to either scale back production, investment and employment, relocate to Australian states where energy is cheaper, move overseas, or simply shut down," it said.

### SO THERE!

An independent review commissioned by the government has spectacularly rejected claims that the ABC and SBS enjoy an unfair competitive advantage over their commercial rivals.

The review - agreed in a deal between the Turnbull government and One Nation - found the public broadcasters competed fairly in the marketplace and abided by their charters.

In a report released Wednesday, a panel led by retired economist Robert Kerr rejected every major claim against the ABC and SBS made by commercial media organisations, including News Corp and the free-to-air broadcasters.

The ABC and SBS were not overstepping their charters by publishing free online news, the review found - though the charters were so broad it was "hard to conceive of an activity or program that could not arguably be fitted under the charters as they are currently written".

In fact, the charters compelled the public broadcasters to maximise their reach and become "significant" content providers across all platforms, Mr Kerr's report concluded.

The Australian Government Competitive Neutrality Complaints Office has only received a single complaint about the ABC or SBS, which was levelled against the ABC in 1999.

Furthermore, the review found the market share of the two broadcasters was not large, had not increased dramatically and did not pose any competitive concerns.

The major source of competition to Australian commercial media outlets was international media, the report affirmed.

This inquiry, a sop to One Nation's delusions cost us \$500,000.

**[News Ltd maintained its pattern of deceptive reporting by reporting these findings with the headline "ABC,SBS must be more open.". They then went on to ignore the inquiry findings claiming "It's glaringly obvious the ABC enjoys a competitive advantage..." and produced an editorial attacking the ABC yet again! Oh dear they really are the pits! – David Margan, Editor]**

### SHOW ME THE MONEY

Ever thought what happens to our banknotes? Can't say I have either but the Reserve Bank of Australia has done some research and found that of the bank notes they can't account for employ suggest that, of total outstanding banknotes: 15–35 per cent are used to facilitate legitimate transactions; roughly half to three-quarters are hoarded as a store of wealth or for other purposes, of which we can allocate 10–20 percentage points to domestic hoarding and up to 15 percentage points to international hoarding; 4–8 per cent are used in the shadow economy; and 5–10 per cent are lost.

So now you know!

### A LACK OF INTEGRITY

Former Victorian Appeals Court Judge, Stephen Charles, called for the commission now proposed by the Morrison government to have far more scope to investigate wrongdoing, while former NSW anti-corruption commissioner Ian Temby said it must hold public hearings to ensure justice.

"The public is entitled to know what the courts are doing, and how they are doing it. That is why the courts conduct public hearings. So it must be with any anti-corruption body," Mr Temby wrote in the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age.

Mr Temby also called for the new commission to have a broad definition of corrupt conduct and the power to initiate its own inquiries.

Mr Charles, who has joined 33 other former judges in putting forward plans for a federal ICAC, said the \$125 million in funding for Mr Morrison's commission over four years was "totally inadequate". Labor promised \$58.7 million for its commission.

Mr Charles also said the definition of corruption should go beyond crimes because some activity was "borderline" and the commission might be prevented from launching investigations under the government proposal.

"Much corruption is not criminal at all," he told Sky News.

"If you have a government which is receiving very large political donations but which is then favouring those who made donations... that is a form of corruption which does not necessarily involve crime at all."

Mr Charles said this form of corruption could be dealt with by exposure even if it never went to a prosecution before a court.

Griffith University professor of public law AJ Brown said the commission should have more scope to look at systemic corruption that might not be caught by a criminal law.

"It means corruption will have to be quite bad before it gets on the radar of this agency,"

"The CIC will not investigate direct complaints about ministers, members of Parliament or their staff received from the public at large".

The New South Wales Independent Commission Against Corruption was able to crack corruption at the highest levels of government because it had a "Report Corruption Here" button on its website.

It was this button used for an anonymous tip-off that led to the jailing of former Labor power broker Eddie Obeid, former minister Ian [Michael] Macdonald and a mining union boss over gaming of coal mining licences worth tens of millions of dollars.



## TAKE A SECOND JOB

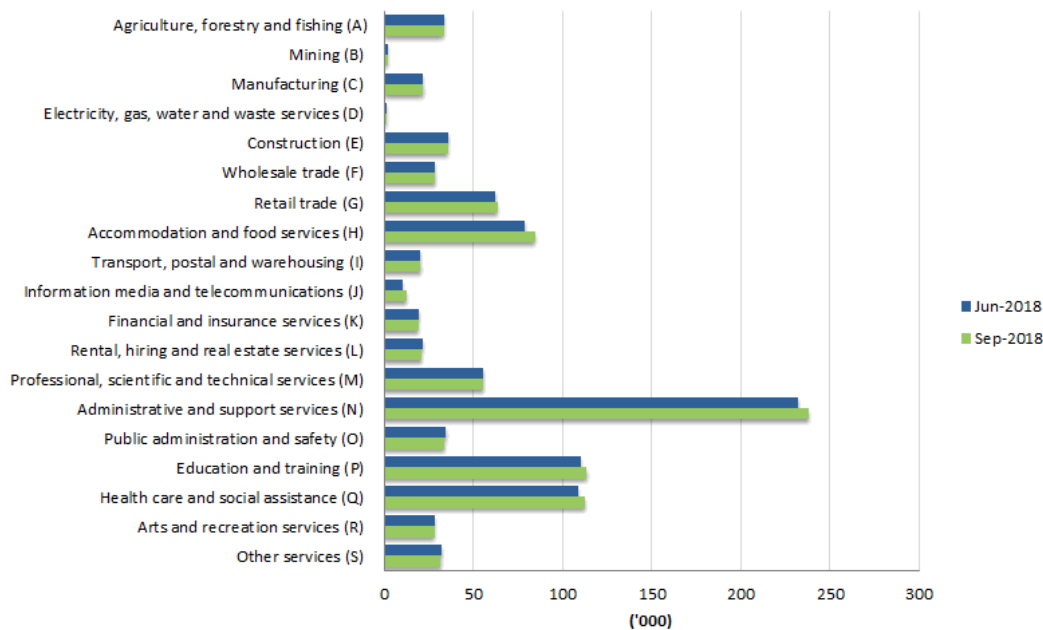
The number of jobs that were filled in Australia increased by 0.3 per cent in the September quarter of 2018, with around half of the increase being secondary jobs, according to new labour market insights released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Nearly one third (30 per cent) of the increase in secondary jobs this quarter was in the administrative and support services, with the next largest contribution coming from accommodation and food services industry (29 per cent).

"Accommodation and food services is the fourth largest industry in the economy in terms of secondary jobs. Only administrative and support services, health care and social assistance, and education and training industries have more secondary jobs than the accommodation and food services industry," said Mr Hockman, Chief Economist at the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Secondary jobs involve making things (manufacturing) e.g. making cars and steel.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SECONDARY JOBS, BY INDUSTRY, JUN QTR 2018 AND SEP QTR 2018



## HEALTHY? THINK SO!

The typical Australian is a non-smoker and has never smoked, does 42 minutes of exercise every day, is overweight or obese and does not eat enough vegetables. Data released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) National Health Survey 2017-18 shows that more than half of Australians (56 per cent) thought they were in excellent or very good health, while 15 per cent were feeling in fair or poor health. ABS Director of Health Statistics, Louise Gates, said the typical Australian male weighed 87kg and stood 175cm tall and was therefore overweight while the typical female weighed 72kg and was 161cm tall and was also overweight.

"On average, we were doing 42 minutes of exercise every day, which mostly consisted of walking for transport or walking for exercise (24.6 minutes), however we didn't participate in sufficient strength and toning activities", Ms Gates said. "In addition, 44 per cent of us spent most of our work day sitting."

"More than half of us were eating the recommended daily intake of fruit but not enough vegetables, with only 7.5 per cent of adults eating the recommended daily serves of vegetables."

In good news, while 79 per cent of us consumed alcohol in the last year, we did so at safe levels.

Fewer than half of Australians (48 per cent) consumed either sugar sweetened or diet drinks and 47 per cent of Australians had at least one chronic health condition.

Further details are in *National Health Survey: First Results, 2017-18* (cat. no. 4364.0.55.001) from the ABS website <http://www.abs.gov.au>.

## MAKE A COMPLAINT? DON'T THINK SO!

ASIC has released research exploring the consumer experience of internal dispute resolution (IDR) procedures across the financial services sector.

The research sought to better understand the experience of people thinking about or making a complaint to a financial services firm.

The research revealed the incidence of complaints across the financial services sector, as well as the barriers and difficulties people face in approaching and navigating the complaints process.

### Key findings of the research were:

- 17% of Australians aged 18+ considered making a complaint to a financial firm in the preceding 12 months ('the considerers')
- 8% went on to make a complaint ('the complainants')
- almost half of those who did not make a complaint reported that they did not think it would make a difference or it was not worth their time, and
- 18% of complainants dropped out or withdrew their complaint before it was concluded.
- Common obstacles that were encountered by complainants that directly affected their satisfaction and/or confidence in the complaints process include:
  - Structural obstacles: one in seven complainants found it difficult to find the firm's contact details to make a complaint
  - Transparency obstacles: Almost a quarter of complainants did not have the IDR process explained well at first contact and 27% of complainants were unsure of how long they would need to wait for a decision, and
  - Customer service obstacles: 28% of complainants reported feeling that they had not been listened to or heard and 22% felt they had been passed around to too many people or strung along.

Only 45% of complainants who received an unfavourable outcome received an explanation of the decision made against them by the firm and only 21% of complainants whose complaints were not resolved in the timeframe set by ASIC guidance had the external dispute resolution (EDR) process explained to them.

ASIC was particularly concerned about this finding since each of these steps is essential to assist consumers to effectively escalate their complaint to an independent and external forum. Since 1 November 2018, this forum has been the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA).

ASIC Commissioner Ms Danielle Press said, 'As the first step in the financial dispute resolution system, IDR plays a vitally important role in Australia's consumer protection framework.

'Consumers and small businesses should have access to transparent, fair and timely complaints processes. Our research shows the strong connection between consumer satisfaction in how a firm deals with a problem, and their confidence in that financial firm.

### CAPITALISM AT WORK



"A month after 82% of staff voted against the enterprise agreement offered by Seven, human resources boss Katie McGrath sent an email to staff on Friday, seen by Crikey, telling them the company was preparing to apply for the current agreement to be terminated entirely, should conciliation with the Fair Work Commission fail. The agreement covers about 800 permanent staff and 500 casual staff."

The Community and Public Sector Union, which represents technical and operations staff at Seven, told Crikey that Seven's plan amounted to corporate bullying.

Acting CPSU director Emma Groube said in a statement that Seven's profits depended on the skills and expertise of its workers. "Our members at Seven feel cheated and betrayed by this hard-ball push to strip them of gains they've taken years to secure around things like redundancy provisions, shift rosters and penalty rates for

working those shifts," she said. "We sadly believe that Seven was angling for an excuse to terminate this agreement from the very beginning. They told us at the start of the negotiating process that they would accept nothing less than a wholesale capitulation from workers on their existing pay and conditions."

### STUPID NATION

AUSTRALIA'S research funding is expected to drop to its lowest levels in 40 years, the university sector is today warning ahead of the Government's Budget update next week. Universities Australia will today launch a campaign prominently featuring Queensland Professor Ian Frazer, whose research developed the first cervical cancer vaccine. UA boss Catriona Jackson said government investment in research and development funding was expected to fall to 0.5 per cent of gross domestic product, the lowest it had been since 1978.

### DEVELOPER WALKS



Liberal National Party national president Gary Spence resigned today, Friday, during an emergency meeting sparked by updated legal advice. In moves that will have lasting impacts on the looming federal election campaign for the LNP, Mr Spence is understood to be quitting because of the developer donation ban introduced by the State Government.

Mr Spence is the executive chairman of PeakUrban, a civil engineering and development consultant.

It was Spence who drove the LNP's High Court challenge to the Palaszczuk Governments' ban on developer donations. This despite the overwhelming evidence that land zoning and development are the greatest areas of corrupt behaviour in our political system.

### GREATEST LIAR

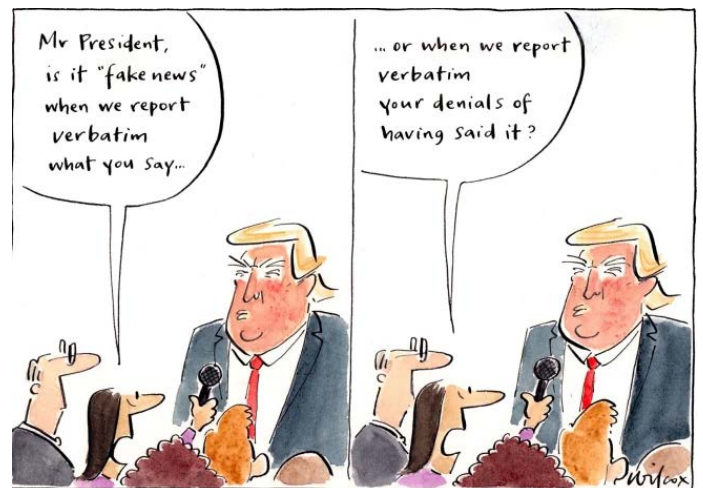
Think back its September 13, In that single day, he publicly made 125 false or misleading statements — in a period of time that totalled only about 120 minutes. It was a new single-day high.

The day before, the president made 74 false or misleading claims, many at a campaign rally in Montana. Trump's tsunami of untruths helped push the count in The Fact Checker's database past 5,000 on the 601st day of his presidency. That's an average of 8.3 Trumpian claims a day. Its claimed that his total lies during his Presidency have now passed 5,436.

### SCAM ALERT

According to the Australian Consumer Competition Commission's Scamwatch, there are three common cons to beware of over the holiday period:

- **Parcel delivery scams:** Scammers may ask you to print a label, do a survey, claim a prize, or view the status of your delivery by clicking on a link or downloading an attachment via email. Some scammers may even call or text with claims about an unsuccessful delivery. These scams are aimed at getting people to download malware onto their computer, or give up their personal information. People have lost about \$31,000 to these scams in 2018.
- **Online shopping scams:** Scammers will set up fake online stores or post goods for sale in buy-swap-sell groups or online classified sites to trick people into buying items that don't exist. This scam has cost Australians nearly \$3 million in 2018, with more than 8700 reports.
- **Travel scams:** Scammers trick people into believing they've won a holiday or scored a really good deal on a travel package, like a cruise. Unfortunately the prize or the cheap accommodation are phoney. In 2018, nearly \$135,000 has been lost to this scam.





## ENVIRONMENT

### MORE DATA CONFIRMS LIBERALS CLIMATE LIES – Mark Butler

Not only does the Morrison Government's own data say carbon pollution is skyrocketing - [new data from Ndevr Environmental](#) confirms that under the Liberals Australia's carbon emissions are again the highest on record.

Describing the disastrous state the Liberals have allowed Matt Drum, managing director of Ndevr said, *"It's looking grim. We need policy levers and we need them quickly."*

Yet speaking at the international climate conference in Poland, Environment Minister Melissa Price said, *"We have policies to align strong economic growth with emissions reduction."*

Australians are sick of the blatant lies that come from the Liberals when it comes to taking action to start to bring down pollution and grapple with the climate emergency.

Just this week the out of touch Liberals announced their plan to spend billions of taxpayers' dollars on new, expensive, coal-fired power stations that are fundamentally inconsistent with our climate change obligations.

Taking action on climate change will be a priority for a Shorten Labor Government. It is our promise, if elected, to future generations.



*The latest [Climate Change Performance Index](#) was released this week in Poland.*

*The index is prepared by Germanwatch, Climate Action Network and the NewClimate Institute and is released annually at the UN's major end-of-year climate change negotiations. The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) was an adviser to the policy assessment.*

*Australia was ranked 'very low' in three of the index's four categories – greenhouse emissions, energy use and climate policy. In the fourth category, renewable energy, Australia was ranked at the bottom of the 'low' performers, for our government's failure to set plans for renewable energy beyond 2020.*

*"While Australian students are taking to the streets calling for our government to get serious about climate change, this ranking shows again that we are right at the back of the class when it comes to real action," said ACF Chief Executive Officer, Kelly O'Shanassy.*

*"Australia is rated as one of the worst countries for climate pollution per person and one of the worst for its national climate policy.*

*"The Morrison Government has no credible emission reduction policy, no regulation of transport emissions and no plans to phase out coal.*

### ANOTHER REPORT HIGHLIGHTS LIBERAL INACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE- Mark Butler

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison abysmal record on climate change has yet again been severely criticised by the international community. The latest Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) places Australia 55th out of 60 countries for action to tackle climate change, ranking Australia's performance under the Liberals as "very low".

This places Australia's performance behind countries like Russia, Turkey, Poland, and China, as well as the EU, UK and Japan.

On the **Liberals failure on energy and climate change policy**, the report says *"national climate policy has continued to worsen"* and Australia *"ranks at the bottom of low performers in the Renewable Energy category with national experts criticising the government for not putting forward any plans for renewable energy beyond 2020."*

On the **Liberals disregard for international responsibilities** the report says; *"the government has become an increasingly regressive force in international negotiations, attempting to weaken climate finance obligations and dismissing the IPCC 1.5°C report."*

### INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS: MORRISON TARGETS INADEQUATE – Mark Butler

415 investors, with \$32 trillion in assets-under-management, including some of the world's largest pension funds, asset managers and insurance companies, have called to action governments around the world to act on climate change by signing the 2018 Global Investor Statement to Governments on Climate Change.

This is the single largest policy intervention from investors on climate change, demanding governments, like Australia, to strengthen their Nationally Determined Contributions to meet the Paris Agreement and to enact policies to facilitate the world's transition to a low-carbon economy.

The statement says, *"The countries and companies that lead in implementing the Paris Agreement and enacting strong climate and low carbon energy policies will see significant economic benefits and attract increased investment that will create jobs in industries of the future.*

*"To ensure a smooth and just transition to a low carbon economy and to adapt to the warming already locked in to the climate system, it will be important that the benefits of gaining access to cleaner energy sources are shared by all, and that those workers and communities affected by the transition are supported."*

But under Scott Morrison's inadequate climate targets there is no plan to reduce pollution and no plan for a just transition for workers and communities. The Government's own data shows under Scott Morrison's hopeless climate change policies, carbon pollution is up and will continue to rise all the way to 2030 (as far as the projections go).

In stark contrast, Labor has a dedicated [just transition policy](#) and our climate targets are based on scientific advice of what is needed to deliver the Paris goal of passing on a sustainable climate to future generations; a cut of 45 per cent by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050

## ENERGY POLICY

### **BIG STICK NOT AN ENERGY POLICY, IT'S JUST ANOTHER LIBERAL SLOGAN – Mark Butler**

In a [painful interview](#) on the ABC, Energy Minister Taylor repeatedly failed to explain what his 'big stick' energy policy thought bubble will deliver for Australians sick of the Liberal's energy crisis.

After being repeatedly asked, Taylor couldn't explain how or by how much his 'big stick' will lower prices.

Former Energy Minister and current Treasurer Josh Frydenberg should be able to help.

Frydenberg has repeatedly claimed the NEG which he designed would lower prices by \$550 per household. He has also claimed not implementing the NEG would raise prices by \$300.

Maybe the reason Minister Taylor can't explain how his 'big stick' policy will lower prices is because in dumping the NEG, the government's own modelling says prices will rise.



Another reason for Taylor's confusion could be the fact energy experts and business groups, including large energy users, have said Taylor's 'big stick' will increase investment uncertainty and increase prices as a result.

Even the ACCC, which Minister Taylor cited as an inspiration for his approach, did not recommend the Government's 'big stick' approach and called it "extreme".

The Morrison government's plan is to repeat empty slogans and hope the Australian people don't notice that after more than five years of Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government, with prices and pollution going up and up, the Liberals still can't manage to agree on an energy policy that will support new renewable investment, and bring down prices and pollution.

If Minister Taylor really wanted to end his government's energy crisis, he would accept Labor's offer to implement a meaningful NEG.

Only Labor has a plan to support the new investment we need to modernise our ageing electricity system, ensure a just transition for workers and deliver lower prices and pollution.



*Renewable energy and storage projects adding up to more than \$20 billion of investment have now been committed across the country, according to new figures released by the Clean Energy Council today.*

*Currently 14.6 gigawatts of new renewable energy projects are under construction. Making conservative adjustments for average capacity factor of wind and solar production, this is equivalent to more than four times the energy output of the Liddell Power Station. Clean Energy Council Chief Executive Kane Thornton said 2018 was unquestionably a record year*

*for the industry. More than 2 million homes now have solar panels, and over 80 wind and solar farms are now under constructed or about to start, he said. "The total value of the projects underway is double where we were at the end of last year. Plus, the wind and solar projects completed in 2018 add up to \$6b, taking the total of projects completed or underway this year to more than \$26 billion," Mr Thornton said.*

## ECONOMY

### **FRYDENBERG SAYS \$1.1 BILLION BANKS GOUGE WAS "NECESSARY" - Bowen**

The ACCC's findings on residential mortgage prices are extremely embarrassing for the Prime Minister and Treasurer and the latest reminder of the cost to the taxpayer of negative gearing.

Josh Frydenberg's statement today on the ACCC report is nothing more than a pathetic and disgraceful defence of price gouging and the taxpayer picking up a large part of the tab.

The ACCC found that APRA's macro prudential measures had lessened competition and had seen banks pass on higher costs to borrowers:

*"While APRA's interest-only benchmark had the objective of contributing to financial system stability, we find it lessened price competition for interest-only lending.*

*"We consider that the benchmark provided the opportunity for the banks to synchronise their significant increases to interest-only rates during the price monitoring period, at a significant cost to these borrowers."*

The ACCC found that “accommodative pricing behaviour among the big four banks” saw an estimated revenue of over \$1.1 billion in the 2018 financial year.

The comes just months after the Productivity Commission found that current negative gearing settings have helped underwrite the pass through of the cost of APRA’s macro prudential measures to the banks – at a cost to the taxpayer of about \$500 million a year.

**Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg have been championing these measures for years now – they should be taking responsibility for how banks have increased costs for borrowers which has seen the taxpayer underwrite higher bank profits through current negative gearing arrangements.**

If the banks are gouging customers through higher interest rates – the taxpayer is automatically underwriting part of that cost through the operation of negative gearing.

Only a few years ago Scott Morrison himself argued that there were “excesses” in negative gearing only to quickly drop that in favour of backing in vested interests to campaign against Labor’s housing affordability reforms.

**TRANSPARENCY LAWS REVEAL ONE IN THREE BIG COMPANIES PAY NO TAX - Leigh Data issued by the Australian Taxation Office today showed that 722 out of the 2109 companies examined failed to pay any tax the 2016-17 tax years. The companies that paid no tax include 100 firms reporting more than \$1 billion in total income.**

The only reason we know that one-third of large companies failed to pay any tax is because of Labor’s tax transparency laws, which passed the Parliament in 2013 amid objections from the Coalition. This is the same Coalition which voted against Labor’s 2012 tax laws, which were directly responsible for BHP being forced to pay a \$529 million tax bill 24 days ago.

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has failed to make our tax system fairer. While a Shorten Labor Government would crack down on multinational tax avoidance, Scott Morrison’s one-point economic plan has been an unaffordable tax cut for multinationals and big banks.

While Labor has a multinational tax plan raising nearly \$5 billion by closing loopholes and curtailing tax havens, the Coalition has managed to double net debt since coming to office.

If the Coalition is re-elected next year, Australians should have no doubt that they will again try to cut company tax rates for large firms. As Scott Morrison said less than six months ago:

***We’re fully pursuing our Enterprise Tax Plan. Nothing’s changed on that. We remain committed to this. We don’t flip and flop on these things. We know what we believe is right for the economy. We took this to an election. I put it in the 2016 Budget and we went to an election and I stood everywhere from Burnie to Townsville and over in the West and said, “This is what’s right for the Australian economy.”***

Labor will continue to lead the debate on multinational tax avoidance and cracking down on tax havens. If the Coalition was serious about tax fairness, it would adopt Labor’s plan to:

- Tighten debt-deduction loopholes used by multinational companies, improving the Budget by \$3 billion over the medium term.
- Cap 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

Australians don’t want the world’s biggest tax loopholes; they want the world’s best schools and hospitals.

## BUDGET IMPROVES DESPITE LIBERALS - Bowen/Chalmers

New Government figures released this week show the Liberals will be relying on a massively increased tax take, rather than spending restraint, for any improvements in the mid-year Budget update.

The latest [Consolidated Financial Statements](#) show tax revenue increased by 10 per cent last year alone – a \$38.9 billion increase from 2016-17 to 2017-18. (p. 9)

These latest figures back up further analysis of the Government's own numbers, which show that –

- Of the \$9 billion in unexpected improvements since the last Budget, two thirds have been further increases in tax;
- The Budget showed taxes almost \$33 billion higher than forecast at the last MYEFO;
- In 2018-19 alone, the Government expected to rake in more than \$8 billion in extra taxes while, at the same time, spending blew out by an additional \$3 billion; and
- The Government is collecting more than \$100 billion in tax this year than in 2013 (\$340 billion in 2013-14 versus \$440 billion in 2018-19), and the tax take will be almost \$200 billion more (\$520 billion) by the end of the forward estimates.

The Liberals can't point to a suite of policies responsible for any improvement in the Budget position – it's all automatic on the back of improved global conditions.

Any improvements in the mid-year update will be despite the Liberals and their chaos and dysfunction, not because of them.



The Budget would be in a far greater position were it not for the Liberals' defence of unfair and unaffordable tax loopholes which overwhelmingly favour the top end of town at the expense of middle Australia, schools, hospitals and TAFEs.

Even with billions of dollars rolling through the door due to rosy global conditions, the Liberals have more than doubled net debt and gross debt has crashed through half-a-trillion dollars on their watch for the first time ever.

Labor has made the tough calls when it comes to fair Budget repair, which is why we've been able to commit to bigger surpluses over the forward estimates and substantially bigger surpluses over the medium term.

## STATEMENT - RELEASE OF ACCC REPORT ON RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE PRICES - Bowen

The ACCC inquiry into residential mortgage prices was one of many announcement Scott Morrison made (this one in the 2017 Budget) to avoid a Banking Royal Commission. This report has been a long time coming, so given Scott Morrison granted an extension for the ACCC to report – we look forward to the Government providing its final response tomorrow.

No amount of minor announcements stops the fact that the Liberal Party actively fought the establishment of a Royal Commission into the banks since early 2016.

If Scott Morrison had listened to Labor in 2016 when it first called for such an inquiry, we would have a Royal Commission deliver its recommendations in 2017 and the Government would be well and truly implementing and legislating them now.

The Liberal Party has had no care for the tens of thousands of Australians who have been the victims of ongoing bank misconduct.

The only way to guarantee there is a Government who cares for all Australian consumers and will implement positive reforms to protect them is through the election of a Shorten Labor Government.

**MEDIA**

## NEUTRALITY INQUIRY: EXPERT PANEL CONFIRMS MINISTER WRONG -Rowland

Yesterday afternoon Minister Mitch Fifield released the report of the [inquiry into the competitive neutrality of the national broadcasters](#).

Minister Fifield, a card-carrying IPA member, commissioned this report as part of a backroom deal with Pauline Hanson to pass the repeal of the 2 out of 3 cross-media control rule, which followed [One Nation threatens to block the Federal Budget unless the ABC budget was slashed by \\$600 million](#).

This Liberal fishing expedition splashed half a million dollars of taxpayer funds to establish what the ABC and SBS have said all along: The national broadcasters are operating in a manner consistent with the general principles of competitive neutrality.

Indeed, the report notes that "The Commonwealth's Competitive Neutrality Policy (CNP) is focussed on government trading corporations and its relevance to the National Broadcasters is more limited. Nevertheless, the National Broadcasters operate under a best endeavours approach to competitive neutrality".

Rather than utilise the [Australian Government Competitive Neutrality Complaints Office](#) (AGCNCO), a separate unit within the Productivity Commission set up to investigate competitive neutrality complaints, the Liberal Government appointed a three-person panel, supported by a Taskforce within the Department of Communications and informed by research outsourced to external consultants, to run the ruler over the ABC and SBS.

With respect to the panel, who have delivered a reasonable and constructive report in the circumstances, it is impossible to divorce this inquiry from the broad-ranging attack on public broadcasting under this Minister.

To the extent the national broadcasters might improve transparency and reporting, this is yet more marginal tinkering from the Minister who does little more than complain about, attack and cut the public broadcasters.

While the Minister's fixation with the ABC and SBS consumes him, a range of real and critical reform tasks in the Communications Portfolio languish, including spectrum reform, 5G deployment reform, the Australian and Children's Screen Content Review and Audio Description for blind Australians.

Australians trust and value the ABC and SBS and should not have to foot the bill for Mitch Fifield and Pauline Hanson's vendetta against public broadcasting.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### INLAND RAIL START 827 DAYS LATE

Labor welcomes today's planned sod-turning on the Inland Rail project from Brisbane to Melbourne, but notes the Coalition had promised to commence the project more than two years ago.



Eight hundred and twenty-seven days have passed since the Coalition's promised start date, which it committed to via a media release during the 2013 election campaign.

The inaction came despite the former Labor Government having invested \$600 million to upgrade existing lines that will form part of Inland Rail route and having provided \$300 million in the 2013 Budget to take the project forward.

In spite of the time delay, there has still been inadequate consultation with farming communities and there is real concern about the route of the project.

It is also the case that the line doesn't go to the Port of Brisbane, stopping 38km short at Acacia Ridge.

The Nationals have used this project to seek political support, but have let down regional Australia by failing to put in the hard work needed to drive its delivery.

### **CORRUPT NATIONALS** - Bernard Keane (Crikey)

They are opposed to a federal anti-corruption body because [they are terrified](#) it will investigate the way in which they pork-barrel National electorates with government grants. Exercising ministerial discretion to ignore departmental advice in allocating grants, they fear, will be investigated as corruption. Barnaby Joyce warned that "every time you do something, it has the potential to call corruption – when it's actually a political decision to bring some parity to people in regional areas." Queensland MP George Christensen demanded infrastructure grants — worth billions of dollars a year across the Commonwealth via a variety of programs — be wholly exempted from the remit of an integrity body.



As the Nationals know perfectly well this is a furphy. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in NSW has been clear that ministers have the discretion to act contrary to departmental advice. This was [confirmed by ICAC](#) following its report into NSW Labor's coal mine lease scandal. ICAC's concern was about ministers pressuring officials to [change their advice, not disagreeing with them](#). Indeed, the [current ICAC regulations](#) in NSW explicitly enshrine the right of ministers to disagree with their departments.

So why are the Nationals lying about this and using it as a figleaf for their terror of an integrity body?

An examination of the record of National Party rorting of grants shows why. The administration of the "Regional Partnerships Program" under the Howard government was one of that government's [worst scandals](#), with Nationals ministers favouring Coalition electorates, handing out money even when no applications had been received, or funding projects that failed even the very vague program criteria, or demanding bureaucrats stop assessing grant applications and simply hand out money. Nationals ministers under Tony Abbott also [handed over](#) \$1.5 billion to Victoria's then-Coalition government for the East-West Link project for political reasons and against departmental advice. Barnaby Joyce's administration of the agriculture portfolio was marked by appalling scandals: the ["tilting"](#) of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, the elimination of live export regulation for Coalition donors, the movement of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to his own electorate, as well as the [mismanagement](#) of a rural research grants program and the maladministration of a [concessional loans](#) program.

*Wherever you look, mismanagement — at best — follows in the wake of Nationals ministers. And that's just from Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) reports and media inquiries. What would a federal ICAC, with subpoena powers, public hearings and the ability to demand cabinet papers and internal and personal correspondence, be able to find out?*

*The biggest Nationals decision of recent years is the "Inland Rail", which will cost at least \$10 billion over a decade to build and which will, according to the [government's own documents](#), never come close to earning its cost back. The project — as long-time ardent advocate [Everald Compton points out](#) — will be the subject of bizarrely redundant sod-turning ceremony tomorrow involving Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack in his own electorate, despite no actual work for the project being done there. Infrastructure Australia was not permitted to do a proper cost-benefit analysis of the project. Despite this, the government has allocated its funding for it to the capital budget, despite very clear rules that only projects that will earn a substantial rate of return can be thus classified.*

## **IA REPORT EXPOSES GOV'T'S ABYSMAL RECORD ON INFRASTRUCTURE - Albanese**

The Planning Liveable Cities report, which was released today by Infrastructure Australia, echoes Federal Labor's concern that the Coalition Government has failed to ensure investment in vital infrastructure keeps pace with the growth of our cities.

The report tells us that "our largest cities are playing catch-up in delivering infrastructure to support population growth" and it calls on government to act now to better sequence infrastructure to meet the needs of urban communities.

Exacerbating this challenge is the fact that under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government, Federal infrastructure grant funding will fall off a cliff over the next four years, from \$8 billion in 2017-18 to \$4.5 billion in 2021-22.

Research by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office shows that under the current Coalition Government, Federal grants will halve over the next four years from 0.4 per cent of the national GDP, to 0.2 per cent.

The truth is that this ATM Government's failure to invest in infrastructure is threatening the liveability of our cities.

The Infrastructure Australia report also calls on more collaborative governance structures across the three tiers of government, meaningful community engagement and evidence-based decision making to guide investment in cities.

These principles underpin Labor's City Partnerships policy, which was announced in July this year and would replace the ATM Government's weak, politicised City Deals.

Labor's City Partnerships program would ensure a bottom-up model, acknowledging that local communities and their elected representatives need to be central players in decision-making about their local priorities and strategic vision.

Currently, there are no clear guidelines about how City Deals work and no mechanism for independent oversight to evaluate their effectiveness.

Labor would address this deficiency by re-establishing the Major Cities Unit within the independent Infrastructure Australia and requiring it to use transparent measures to both recommend and assess the progress of City Partnerships.

The Major Cities Unit will also refresh the National Urban Policy that Labor released when last in government to ensure City Partnerships align with its objectives in areas like sustainability and smart technology.

Labor would also establish an expert panel to update strategic planning guidelines for cities and, in consultation with the Minister, develop guidelines for City Partnerships including a focus on benefits to the economy.

Federal Labor is serious about ensuring our cities are productive, sustainable and liveable places for everyone and is committed to collaborating with communities and the three tiers of government to deliver this.

## **COALITION PLAYS CATCH-UP ON MACKAY RING ROAD – Albanese/ Hassan (Dawson Candidate)**

**The Coalition's re-announcement of investment for the Mackay Ring Road is evidence it is prepared to delay actual investment in infrastructure to suit his political needs.**



The project, which the Government "announced" today, was actually funded in the 2018 Budget in May when Malcolm Turnbull was Prime Minister.

But rather than get on with the work when the money was available, Prime Minister Scott Morrison deliberately chose to delay releasing the funding until closer to the upcoming federal election, along with a range of other projects including the Rockhampton Ring Road.

Federal Labor has already committed funding for the Mackay and Rockhampton Ring Road projects.

Shadow Infrastructure Minister Anthony Albanese said that while the Coalition had been consumed by its internal brawling, Labor had been leading from Opposition by developing a plan to tackle traffic congestion right across the country.

"By contrast, Mr Morrison has been cutting infrastructure investment," Mr Albanese said.

"The independent Parliamentary Budget Office says that on current planning, Federal infrastructure grants to the states as a percentage of GDP will halve over the next four years to 0.2 per cent. That is absurd at a time when our nation is under population pressure, our capital cities are clogged by traffic congestion and our regions need infrastructure investment to boost productivity and drive jobs growth."

Labor candidate for Dawson Belinda Hassan said the Mackay Ring Road would make a huge difference to her community by opening up more export opportunities for local commerce and industry, getting the trucks off our local roads, and of course, creating more construction jobs for our region.

“I’m proud that Labor understands that we need to just get on with this project. I haven’t needed to resort to silly stunts or spending taxpayer dollars on full-page ads in the paper.” Ms Hassan said.

“While the Coalition has been sitting on its hands, one thing is certain – a Shorten Labor Government would work with Queensland Labor Government to get this project off the drawing board as soon as possible.”

**LABOR LEADING FROM OPPOSITION ON LINKFIELD ROAD OVERPASS-Albanese**  
**Labor welcomes the Morrison Government’s decision to match our commitment to duplicate the Linkfield Road overpass on the Gympie Arterial Road.**

Currently two lanes merge into one just before drivers turn north on to the Gympie Arterial Road, making it a notorious stretch for accidents and traffic congestion.

The bottleneck has been identified by the state’s peak roads body, the RACQ, as a key priority for government action.

In August Federal Labor committed to partner with the Palaszczuk Government to build the overpass as part of our plan to tackle traffic congestion, which acts as a hand brake on productivity and is reducing our quality of life.

The Coalition’s decision to copy our policy is great news for residents of the electorates of Dickson and Petrie because it guarantees this important project will proceed.

This is another example of Labor leading from Opposition.

While Coalition MPs have spent this year attacking each other, we’ve been hard at work on policy development to attack problems that matter to Australians, including traffic congestion.

After five years of cuts to infrastructure investment, it is no surprise that the Coalition is now copying Labor’s common sense plans.

But to make an even bigger impact on traffic congestion in South-East Queensland, Prime Minister Scott Morrison should also adopt Labor’s plan to invest in Brisbane’s Cross River Rail project, which the Coalition foolishly cancelled when it took office in 2013.

## GOVERNANCE

### MORRISON BACKDOWN ON INTEGRITY COMMISSION - Dreyfus

**After 12 months of denial, the government has been dragged kicking and screaming to a National Integrity Commission – but it’s clear Scott Morrison is not being honest here.**

Make no mistake – this is not a decision of principle. It is a decision of political expediency from a desperate and chaotic government.

Labor is pleased that the government has once again been forced to take our lead on an important policy matter, after months of pressure – just as occurred with the banking Royal Commission.

It is unfortunate that it has taken them so long.

Since Labor announced our policy in January, the government has consistently refused our offers of cooperation to establish a federal anti-corruption body before the election, and denied such a body was even necessary.

Just last month, senior Liberal Christopher Pyne said of a National Integrity Commission:

**“I don’t think that’s necessary at the national level and it’s just another way of Bill Shorten trying to distract people from the real issues that matter.” - Sky News, 19 November 2018**

The Prime Minister himself labelled it a [‘fringe issue’](#) in Parliament. The Attorney-General first said in writing he saw [no persuasive evidence](#) for such a body.

Labor will examine the detail put forward by the government today and come to a position on their proposal in due course. It is clear, however, that the government has proposed something far weaker than Labor’s proposal, and falls short of the principles Labor set out in January.

## THE FARM

### COAG DROUGHT OUTCOME – Fitzgibbon

**It is clear it wasn’t a priority for the Prime Minister, but at COAG today he signed an [InterGovernmental Agreement \(IGA\)](#) on Drought.** Six months late, the IGA is close to a carbon copy of the Agreement the former Labor Government agreed on with the States in 2013. The biggest change is the title.

The likeness of the IGA to the 2013 Agreement is an admission the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government failed to progress drought policy reform over the course of the past five years.

Barnaby Joyce's first act as the new Agriculture Minister in 2013 was to abolish the COAG committee charged with the responsibility to implement the agreed reform program. That's when reform stalled. Five years have been lost.

It is of concern that today Scott Morrison did not commit to the reformation of a formal COAG committee to get reform back on track. A Shorten Labor Government will do so.

When he rolled Malcolm Turnbull, Scott Morrison said drought and our farmers would be his number one priority. But it seems as the media focus has moved on, so too has our Prime Minister.



**LIBERALS HOLLOW PROMISE FOR CASUALS AFTER YEARS OF INACTION – O'Connor**  
In a sign of its contempt for workers, the Abbott-Turnbull Morrison Government has waited for parliament to finish for the year, to flag potential legislation for casual workers.

For five years, this government has denied there is any problem with casualisation and now expects to be trusted by Australian workers.

Labor is the only party that can be trusted to stand up for workers. Federal Labor will set an objective test for deciding when a worker is "casual" and we will also crack down on dodgy labour hire companies that rip off and exploit workers.

In contrast, this Government has proven time and time again that it doesn't care about workers - so we aren't holding our breath when it comes to this announcement.

We will look at the detail but if past actions are any guide, any legislation that could potentially help workers will be delayed because this government is ideologically obsessed with trashing workers' rights, not upholding them. Given the Government's appalling record we know they can't be trusted when it comes to workers.

Labor won't be surprised if the Coalition members of the committee use this hollow promise to say one thing in their electorates pretending they care, and yet do absolutely nothing in Canberra.

Under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government, we are headed towards a low paid, easy to hire, easy to fire society, which is undermining job security and putting downward pressure on wages.

Australian workers are sick of waiting for the Liberals to act.

**PROSECUTIONS QUESTIONS GOVERNMENT CLEANERS PAY -O'Connor/Cameron**  
The Morrison Government must guarantee workers cleaning Commonwealth buildings are not being ripped off after a company linked to one of its cleaning contractors was fined \$20,000 in the Federal Circuit Court this week.



Pioneer Facility Services Pty Ltd were one of four cleaning companies [fined a combined total of \\$65,000](#) after being found guilty of underpaying staff.

Pioneer director, Francis Xavier Scarce, is also a director of Prompcorp which is subcontracted to clean the Department of Jobs and Small Business buildings in Canberra.

Mr Scarce was also a director of two companies the Fair Work Ombudsman found had subcontracted cleaning to Myer stores where subcontractors had also underpaid staff.

In August, Prompcorp sacked about a third of cleaners working in the Department of Jobs and Small Business and those remaining were given a 16 per cent pay cut.

The prosecutions follow a recent [Senate inquiry](#) into the underpayment and exploitation of contract cleaners working for large retailers.

The subsequent report - *Wage theft? What wage theft?!* - has made 22 recommendations to the Morrison Government on ways to address exploitation, underpayment and sham contracting arrangements in the cleaning industry.

A Shorten Labor government will address the problems in our labour market that mean that precarious work is increasing.

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.

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.



## **NO SIGNING OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS BEFORE THE ELECTION- Terri Butler**

**Friday's employment services report release demonstrates that an extensive overhaul is needed.**

For the sake of providers, employers, and unemployed Australians, the government must commit to refrain from signing new employment services contracts before the election.

Whoever wins the election and forms government can then make sure any changes can be managed in a considered manner. This is too important to be rushed.

This government is failing Australian unemployed workers, and it is failing Australian businesses who are in need of talent.

Much more needs to be done to understand local labour markets, match unemployed people with job vacancies, and connect people to relevant training and development where skills shortages exist.

Labor has repeatedly called on the government to release the employment services report, which was due to be completed on 15 October.

It's about time the Liberals are releasing the report - it was due to be completed two months ago.

Employment service providers, advocacy groups and individuals looking for work have all expressed grave concerns about the current state of employment services.

Unemployed people need high quality labour market programs to help with their return to the paid workforce.

Businesses need labour market programs that can respond to emerging needs by connecting people, skills and jobs.

There is a role for digital services but they must be used to make it easier for people to meet mutual obligation requirements, become employable and find work. Digital services must not be used as a cost-cutting measure to replace human contact where it's needed.

Nor can this government be trusted to manage technology-led human services, after their robodebt debacle.

Labour market programs should be squarely focussed on responding to skills shortages, building people's employability, and getting people into jobs. They should not be punitive or dehumanising.

Compliance programs should serve the aim of keeping people in touch with the world of paid work. They should not be savings measures.

The government's 2017 budget claimed that their work for the dole changes and new "compliance framework" would achieve "efficiencies" of \$632.0 million over five years (an amount revised downwards by \$7.6 million in 2018).

This is code for a new punitive approach that cuts the incomes of unemployed people.

Labor did not support the welfare compliance reforms and is pleased that the report released today reportedly criticises the government's approach for being too punitive.

Mutual obligation requirements including work for the dole must be aimed at increasing employment.

Labor remains concerned about the effectiveness of work for the dole. It's a program that costs tens of millions of dollars.

Yet a government-commissioned evaluation report released in 2018 estimated that in the short-term work for the dole resulted in only an additional 2% of participants getting a job placement.

The government clearly shares Labor's concerns about the current program given it cut \$148 million from it over the forward estimates in the 2017 budget.

Employment services and Australia's labour market programs need reform. The government must not rush through any new contracts. Current arrangements expire in 2020.



## **SCOTT MORRISON CANNOT BE TRUSTED ON HOSPITAL FUNDING – Shorten/King**

**After five years of relentless public hospital cuts, Scott Morrison and the Liberals simply cannot be trusted to deliver on a promise of extra funding.**

This tricky announcement does not match Labor's funding, and it does not reverse the savage cuts that Scott Morrison has inflicted on every public hospital in Australia.

As Treasurer, Morrison inflicted savage cuts on health and hospitals in every budget he authored. And now he expects the Australian people to believe he's suddenly seen the light and believes in better hospital funding?

The Liberal record speaks for itself.

In 2013 they promised “no cuts to health”. But in their very first Budget they swung the axe, cutting \$57 billion from hospitals.

When they finally back-flipped on this shocking plan – under overwhelming pressure from a horrified Australian public – they still left our hospitals billions of dollars worse off than they would have been under Labor.

The Liberals promised to partner with the states to deliver an equal 50 per cent of hospital funding growth but then they reneged.

And all the states and territories – even the Liberals ones – are furious over Scott Morrison’s most recent retrospective funding attack, in which he’s trying to claw back more than \$600 million for services already delivered.

As a result of these savage Liberal cuts, Australians are languishing for longer than ever before in hospital emergency department waiting rooms and on elective surgery waiting lists.

Now the Government has finally realised, months out from of an election, the Australian people are not happy with their constant cuts to healthcare?

Well it doesn’t matter what they say before an election because you can’t trust them to deliver. Their health promises aren’t worth the paper they’re printed on.

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

By contrast, Labor will fully reverse the Liberals’ cuts to public hospitals from the next election to 2025 through our \$2.8 billion Better Hospitals Fund.

Our Fund will deliver more beds, more doctors and nurses, shorter wait times, better facilities and better care.

Labor will always invest more in hospitals than the Liberals - and the Australian people know we will actually deliver.

## **HELP SHAPE LABOR’S PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE INQUIRY - King**

**Labor is inviting consumers, experts and the private health sector to have their say on how to improve the value, affordability and quality of private health insurance.**

A Shorten Labor Government will order a root-and-branch Productivity Commission review of the private health system – and we want your help to shape that inquiry.

If we win the next election we will impose a 2 per cent cap on private health insurance price rises for two years, saving an average family \$340 and giving them certainty over their household budget rather than rewarding the big insurers with ever growing profits.

The cap will deliver immediate relief to families struggling with relentless price rises. But it’s important we also develop long-term reforms to ensure the private health sector has a sustainable future.

That is what the Productivity Commission inquiry – the first major review of the sector in 20 years – is all about.

Labor is today releasing an issues paper and inviting submissions to inform the terms of reference and structure of the inquiry.

The issues paper includes key questions around product design, out-of-pocket costs, competitiveness, transparency and the premium setting process.

We intend to publish draft terms of reference for the inquiry before the next election, informed by the submissions to this paper. This process will help ensure the inquiry is conducted quickly if we win the next election.

The issues paper builds on the work begun with Labor’s national online survey – available at [www.peoplenotprofits.org.au](http://www.peoplenotprofits.org.au) – that has enabled thousands of Australians to share their experiences and ideas about private health insurance.

Private health insurance costs are out of control, with the average policy increasing by more than \$1,000 a year under the Liberals. This is an affordability crisis that Scott Morrison is about to make worse with another above-inflation increase in 2019 – bringing the total increase under the Liberals to 30 per cent.

It’s time Australians get a fair go when it comes to private health insurance – only Labor has a plan to put people over profits and make health insurance more affordable for every Australian.

[The issues paper](#) can be accessed [here](#).

**Submissions are invited from all interested individuals and organisations and should be made to [privatehealthfeedback@australianlabor.com.au](mailto:privatehealthfeedback@australianlabor.com.au).**

## SOCIAL SERVICES

### **GRINCH FLETCHER'S FUNDING CHAOS CONTINUES TO HURT AT XMAS - McAllister/ Hill**

**Despite being the season for love and giving the disastrous rollout of Financial Capability and Wellbeing grants continues to cause chaos for at risk communities.**

[Service providers have today](#) called on the Government to reverse cuts that will leave vulnerable Australians in South East Melbourne without financial counselling services in the lead up to Christmas.

Over the last month Minister Fletcher has backflipped on a number of funding decisions as it became clear that he had completely bungled the process. It was only after public backlash that the Minister provided 12 month extensions to existing providers who had their funding cut.

Today it has become clear that financial counsellors in Dandenong and Narre Warren will not have access to the funding extension causing job losses and leaving clients in hardship with nowhere to turn right at the end of the year.

It is only weeks until Christmas and the Minister is still yet to clean up the mess in social services.

The Greater Dandenong is the officially the most disadvantaged area in Melbourne and financial counsellors offer an incredibly important service to people dealing with financial hardship.

The funding rollout for Financial Capability and Wellbeing grants has been a disaster of the Government's own making.

This process should have caused minimum disruption for the sector and instead has caused immense stress for staff and their clients.

Labor is calling on the Minister to come clean on these cuts and ensure that services won't be disrupted at Christmas.

The chaos surrounding social services needs to stop.

#### **TIMELINE OF THE BUNGLED GRANTS PROCESS**

- 12<sup>th</sup> November: The Government back flipped on their cruel [cuts to Foodbank](#).
- 14<sup>th</sup> November: The Government back flipped on their decision to cut funding to organisations in NSW and Victoria who run the [National Debt helpline](#) by extending their funding arrangements for 12 months.
- 17<sup>th</sup> November: The Minister back flipped on the roll out of their [emergency relief grants](#) across the country by extending grants arrangements to organisations that were recently notified of a cut to funding.
- 18<sup>th</sup> November: It was reported that there has been a further backflip to [financial counselling grants](#) by extending arrangements by three months to organisations that had recently had their funding cut.
- **27th November:** it was reported that [the Minister would extend arrangements](#) to organisations who recently had their funding cut for financial counselling grants from three to twelve months.
- This week , [service providers have called](#) on the Government to reverse cuts that will leave vulnerable Australians in South East Melbourne without financial counselling services.

### **GOVERNMENT MUST STOP NDIS FRAUD TAKING HOLD - Burney**

**Labor is calling on the Government to conduct an urgent audit of NDIS fraud risks, after more reports that providers struck-off as Family Day Care operators have been approved as NDIS providers.**

The Government needs to explain how it was possible for these operators to be rejected from one taxpayer funded program only to shift to another.

Particularly as this issues as been brought to the Government's attention before.

At Senate Estimates in October, neither the Department of Social Services, the NDIA nor the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission could give a guarantee that operators found to have defrauded other Commonwealth programs were not being approved as NDIS providers.

This is completely unacceptable. The Government has dropped-the-ball on the NDIS rollout.

People relying on NDIS services deserve to know that registered services are legitimate and will provide quality support. And taxpayers must be protected.

Every dollar in the NDIS should be used to improve services and supports for people with disability – not siphoned off by fraudsters or dodgy operators.

### **NDIS PLANNING FIX TAKING TOO LONG - Burney**

**Despite the Government's promises that NDIS planning processes would be improved, [reports](#) today confirm that people are still not able to see a printed copy of their draft plan before it is approved.**

This leaves people without a clear understanding of what their plan will provide, until it is too late.

As a consequence, people are forced to request formal plan reviews – with it often taking months for simple errors and omissions to be corrected.

This problem has been going on for years.

People with disability, families, advocates, providers and Labor have repeatedly called for this simple problem to be fixed.

The Government has dropped the ball on the rollout of the NDIS and they have failed to listen.

As a result, the NDIS has become a bureaucratic wrangle for too many families. This is unacceptable.

The NDIS is changing lives, but people with disability and their families need to be put back at the heart of the Scheme. Labor established the NDIS and a Labor Government will work every day to get it back on track.

## HOME AFFAIRS

### **MORRISON ORDERS ABF TO STOP PATROLLING AUSTRALIA'S BORDERS - Neumann**

The cuts and chaos of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government are putting at risk Australia's border security with [reports](#) the Australian Border Force fleet has been ordered to stop patrols to save money on fuel.

It is a disgrace that Morrison's budget cuts are putting Australia's border security at risk.



Scott Morrison and Peter Dutton must explain why they have ordered "operational limitations" on ABF boats, including Cape Class and Bay Class vessels, which are integral to Australia's border protection.

If Scott Morrison claims to be so strong on border protection – why is he inflicting these savage cuts on a critical function of the Australian Border Force? Was he hoping he could sweep these savage cuts under the rug?

Cape class patrol boats have been described as the "workhorses" of the ABF fleet which are "absolutely critical platform for our maritime security operations" and help target people smuggling, illegal fishing, and other transnational crime.

This latest round of cuts follows [news](#) a fleet of Fast Response Boats used to navigate the difficult waters of the Torres Strait have been pulled from service.

Why is Scott Morrison stopping the boats that protect Australia's borders?

Scott Morrison has spent all week spreading baseless lies about Labor's strong position on border protection to mask his own Government's chaos when, in fact, he is the one undermining Australia's border protection and national security.

Scott Morrison's shameful and ever-increasing record includes:

- Slashing [ABF staff at airports](#) over the busy Christmas holiday period due to \$300 million in budget blowouts – meaning long delays for people travelling to and from Australia to see their family and friends;
- Announcing the privatisation of Australia's visa processing system – handing over the frontline of our border control system to a private company in a move that will slash 3000 Australian jobs ultimately weaken the integrity of Australia's borders;
- Overseeing record high levels of people claiming asylum in Australia with a record number of 27,931 onshore protection visa applications made in the 2017-18 financial year alone; and
- Shamefully teaming up with the Greens to block the Malaysia Solution resulting in over 600 people drowning at sea.

It's clear the real threat undermining Australia's border security is the cuts and chaos of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government.

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

### **LABOR URGES CONSUMERS: BE CAREFUL THIS CHRISTMAS – Madeleine King**

As Christmas nears, Labor urges Australian consumers to be careful when buying presents for their loved ones.

"Christmas is a special time of the year, but when everyone is rushed off their feet trying to make the most of the holidays, things can go wrong, quickly," said Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs Madeleine King MP.

"We want to make sure Australian consumers to stay safe, stress-free and satisfied with their purchases this Christmas."

When buying presents for young ones, check [the CHOICE website](#) and [ACCC Product Safety Australia](#) so you can be reassured your present won't harm your child.

And if you're wondering if a present is worth the money, CHOICE offers a comprehensive list of product reviews, from [a Christmas kitchen gift](#)

[guide](#) to reviews on every portable Bluetooth speaker under the sun.

Labor also urges consumers to think twice before signing up to a Payday Loan or a Buy Now Pay Later scheme – these predatory loan schemes might seem like a good way to buy that present your partner always wanted, but they can leave consumers facing crippling debt.

“Many of us are stretched for money over the Christmas period and it’s understandable consumers may be tempted to take out a payday loan to buy a gift,” Ms King said.

“Any responsible government would have sought to protect vulnerable Australian consumers by clamping down on loan sharks and dodgy consumer leases – but not the Morrison Government.”

It is 744 days since the Liberals accepted recommendations to reform the Small Amount Credit Contract industry, yet still they’ve done nothing, and another Christmas goes by where financially vulnerable Australian consumers are exposed to the exploitative practices of loan sharks.

**If you are facing financial stress, call the National Debt Helpline on 1800 007 007.**

## VETERANS

### **DRAFT REPORT INTO COMPENSATION AND REHAB FOR VETERANS -Rishworth**

**Labor will read through the details of the draft report by the Productivity Commission into Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans which has been released.**

The Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) was established almost a century ago as part of Australia’s commitment to its WWI veterans.

DVA is not perfect- it needs reform- but it is a critical support for our veterans.

Our veterans and ex-service personnel sacrificed their lives to serve our country and deserve our support.

In overview, the report acknowledges the deep concerns which veterans have been raising about this system for some time.

Labor has echoed these concerns.

However, we hold reservations of dismantling the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

Labor understands that this is a draft report and the Productivity Commission is accepting written submissions on this draft before handing down its final report in June 2019.

## CHILDCARE

### **MORRISON MUST PROVIDE FUNDING CERTAINTY TO PRESCHOOL – Bowen/Rishworth**



**In its biggest snub yet, the Liberals have neglected to place preschool funding on the agenda for today’s Education Council meeting of ministers.**

Even though funding for preschools expires in 12 months, the Abbott Turnbull Government could not be bothered to list it on the agenda.

This is the clearest sign yet they are not committed to funding preschools beyond the 2019 school year.

With MYEFO due out on Monday, the Morrison Government has a chance to show it does care and provide funding certainty to four year old preschool.

There are more than 350,000 four year olds pre-schoolers around Australia who rely on this funding but as it stands, the Liberals would rather leave them in limbo.

In stark contrast, Labor announced earlier this year that we would provide ongoing funding certainty for four year old preschool and extend the program to three year olds.

Labor’s \$1.75 billion National Preschool and Kindy Program will guarantee around 700,000 Australian children a year will be able to access subsidised preschool in the two years before school.

Labor also announced it would reverse the Liberals savage \$20 million cut to the national quality agenda which safeguards our nation’s preschools.

**This is the biggest ever investment in early childhood education in Australia.**

If the Liberals are serious about early education and giving children the best start in life they will fund preschools in MYEFO, rather than try to build a surplus on the backs of preschools.

## DEFENCE

### LIBS SELL THE FARM ON SUBS - Marles

The Defence Minister today admitted his promise that our new submarines would be 90 per cent built in Australia was untrue.



South Australians, and every Australian, should feel ripped off and cheated by this – because they have been.

In 2016, to win votes in the run up to an election, Christopher Pyne said

***“We are involved in a proper commercial negotiation with DCNS [Naval Group] as the builder of the submarine. DCNS has admitted that probably less than 10 per cent of the work will be done outside Australia.” - CHRISTOPHER PYNE – Q AND A – 23 MAY 2016***

Announcing those negotiations were complete, he admitted he hasn’t even got close.

***“A local build is defined as being around 60 per cent-plus... So we expect this to be a local build as we’ve announced. That’s what Naval Group will deliver, Naval***

***Group Australia.” - CHRISTOPHER PYNE – DOORSTOP – 13 DECEMBER 2016***

What’s more, we don’t know what else the Liberals have given up to get this agreement, because they won’t release it for everyone to see.

The Minister tried to blame Labor for his rush to sign this long-overdue agreement. The Liberals have played politics with the submarine program at every turn: making the decision a deal as part of their leadership negotiations, rushing to pick a designer to win votes in an election, and now blaming the Opposition for their own failures.

Australia deserves a government that puts the national interest first, not their own political interest.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### ONE YEAR ON: COMMUNICATIONS STILL ON A ROAD TO NOWHERE - Rowland

A year ago today, Friday, Labor warned [communications policy is on a road to nowhere under the Liberals](#) because the Government’s communications policy roadmap, commenced in 2016, had not been consulted on or released by late 2017.

In late 2018, there’s still no sign of it.

In response to [Question on Notice No 62](#) released yesterday afternoon, it was stated that the reason the Minister requested a roadmap was ***“To present the Government’s priorities and achievements in relation to the communications sector”*** and that ***“The roadmap is under development”***.

Little wonder the roadmap continues to languish when the ‘priorities and achievements’ of this dysfunctional Liberal-National Government include:

- building a second-rate copper NBN that costs more and does less;
- missing deadline after deadline for delivery of the spectrum reforms;
- stalling the passage of an omnibus deregulation Bill that has been hanging around for years;
- reannouncing an acronym to describe existing safeguards for the delivery of phone and broadband services; and
- failing to overhaul the regulatory framework for media and communications, which successive Chairs of the ACMA have referred to as ‘strained’, ‘broken’ and ‘irrelevant’.

Now in its sixth year in office, this Government has failed to articulate a genuine vision, strategy or roadmap to address challenges and harness opportunities in the communications sector.

As other countries implement and refine plans to reap the benefits of communications-based transformation, Australia remains stuck on Groundhog Day.

On the eve of 2019, it is clear the ATM Government has nothing to guide the Department, regulator or sector. Australia cannot afford another term of this dysfunctional Government and do-nothing Minister

# RIP

**THE HON GORDON SCHOLES AO**

**Richard Marles**

"This week the Labor movement lost a giant.

Before entering Parliament the Hon Gordon Scholes AO was a train driver. He was a staunch unionist and became the President of Geelong Trades Hall Council in 1965.

He served as the Member for Corio from 22 July, 1967 to 8 February, 1993.

He won the seat during a by-election with a swing of 11 percent to Labor. His election was the first triumph of the then newly elected Leader of the Opposition the Hon Gough Whitlam AC QC.

Gordon was the Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives at the time of the Whitlam Government's dismissal.

In the Hawke Government he served as Defence Minister and Minister for Territories.

Like Ben Chifley he rose from the shop floor to our nation's cabinet.

Gordon Scholes witnessed history and participated in it. He is a huge figure in Geelong and the nation and today we mourn his passing. Husband to Della (dec.) our thoughts are with his family, his daughter's Kerry and Anne and his grandson Jed.



## Current Senate Inquiries

### Community Affairs References Committee

- **New** [ParentsNext, including its trial and subsequent broader rollout](#)
- [Support for Australia's thalidomide survivors](#)
- [Effectiveness of the Aged Care Quality Assessment and accreditation framework for protecting residents from abuse and poor practices, and ensuring proper clinical and medical care standards are maintained and practised](#)

### Economics Legislation Committee

- **New** [Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australia Fund Bill 2018](#)
- **New** [Lower Tax Bill 2018](#)
- **New** [Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment \(Supporting Retirement Incomes\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Prohibiting Energy Market Misconduct\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty Consequential Amendments Bill 2018 \[Provisions\] and the Passenger Movement Charge Amendment \(Timor Sea Maritime Boundaries Treaty\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Making Sure Multinationals Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)

### Economics References Committee

- [Credit and financial services targeted at Australians at risk of financial hardship](#)
- [Regional Inequality in Australia](#)

### Education and Employment References Committee

- [The appropriateness and effectiveness of the objectives, design, implementation and evaluation of jobactive](#)
- [The high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers](#)

### Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

- **New** [Galilee Basin \(Coal Prohibition\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Improving the Energy Efficiency of Rental Properties\) Bill 2018](#)

### Environment and Communications References Committee

- [The allegations of political interference in the Australian Broadcasting Corporation \(ABC\)](#)
- [Impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia](#)
- [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

- **New** [Future Drought Fund Bill 2018 and Future Drought Fund \(Consequential Amendments\) Bill 2018](#)
- **New** [Corporations \(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander\) Amendment \(Strengthening Governance and Transparency\) Bill 2018](#)

### Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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

### Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#)

### Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

- **New** [Sex Discrimination Amendment \(Removing Discrimination Against Students\) Bill 2018](#)
- **New** [Migration Amendment \(Streamlining Visa Processing\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [National Integrity Commission Bill 2018 \[Provisions\], National Integrity \(Parliamentary Standards\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\], and National Integrity Commission Bill 2018 \(No. 2\)](#)
- [Migration Amendment \(Strengthening the Character Test\) Bill 2018](#)

- [Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Bill 2018, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia \(Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions\) 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](#)
- **Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee**
- [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](#)
- **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**
- [Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment \(Streamlining Regulation\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)
- **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee**
- **New** [The provision of rescue, firefighting and emergency response at Australian airports](#)
- **New** [The policy, regulatory, taxation, administrative and funding priorities for Australian shipping](#)
- [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](#)
- **Select Committee into Fair Dinkum Power**
- [Fair Dinkum Power](#)
- **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**
- [Development of a foreign influence transparency scheme to apply to parliamentarians](#)
- [Possible improper interference with a Senator in the free performance of his duties](#)
- [Disposition of material obtained in the execution of a search warrant](#)
- **Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances**
- [Parliamentary Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation](#)

