



ELECTION DAY - FIJI

## Senator Claire Moore

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2018**

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### THIS WEEK:

*This week I was invited to serve as an observer for the Fiji elections. Voter turnout was encouraging and it was great to see people wanting to be involved and come to polling stations despite the torrential rain and strong winds. The 51 members of the [Parliament of Fiji](#) are elected from a single nationwide constituency by [open list proportional representation](#).*

*It was an honour to observe the process in a nation that has along with its South Pacific neighbours suddenly become very important again for a host of reasons. I've always been grateful of the warmth and hospitality from everyone I met, it is truly a beautiful part of the planet and I look forward to being able to return.*

*This week also coincides with one of my favourite of all festivals - Deepavali or the Festival of Lights which is the most widely celebrated festival of the people from the Indian sub-continent and across the whole world. It is conducted from November 7 till 20.*

*It is the festival symbolising victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance and in the current world it stands for a reaffirmation of hope, a renewed commitment to friend ship, religious tolerance, spreading the word of peace and harmony and above all, celebration of "simple joys of life".*

SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore  
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### CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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## WHAT'S BEING SAID ...



### **JERUSALEM EMBASSY - SHORTEN-KINGLAKE (VIC)**

"I think that Mr Morrison made a major mistake when he floated the kite before the Wentworth by-election, to say that we would move Australia's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which broke 70 years of bipartisanship and didn't do anything to accomplish peace in the Middle East. Mr Morrison made a mistake. Frankly he made himself look stupid and he made our country look stupid."

### **JERUSALEM EMBASSY - WONG – SKY NEWS AGENDA**

"The problem here is not Indonesia; the problem here is that foreign policy wasn't determined by reference to Australia's national interest. Foreign policy was determined by a bloke trying to get votes in the by-election for the seat of Wentworth. It didn't work and we are now seeing the cost of that."

### **JERUSALEM EMBASSY - MARLES – ABC RN DRIVE**

"This was Scott Morrison completely acting in his own self-interest and completely against what was obviously in the national interest."

### **JERUSALEM EMBASSY & INDONESIA -WONG – SPEECH**

"Indonesia is a critical relationship to Australia but it is fair to say our bilateral ties struggle to reach their full potential. Indonesia is the world's fourth largest country by population and by 2050 projected to be the world's fourth largest economy. It is the largest economy in South East Asia. Indonesia is critical to Australia's security and stability, something Labor has always understood from Curtin and Chifley, through Keating and Hawke to the Rudd and Gillard Governments. And yet under this government our trade with Indonesia has actually decreased."

### **THE PACIFIC - WONG- CANBERRA**

"I think it shows a divided government. A government in chaos and it also demonstrates that her comments really were damaging to our relations with Pacific island nations. We want to be the partner of choice. We have to earn that and if Labor is elected we know the Pacific will be core business."

### **HEALTH RECORD- SHORTEN-KINGLAKE (VIC)**

"This government has ignored all of the experts, tried to rush out a roll out of this record. We've got over a million Australians who've now opted out. The reality is that the My Health website just went into meltdown as people were trying to work out how they opt out of the scheme."

### **HEALTH RECORD - KING – ABC RADIO NATIONAL BREAKFAST**

"We think it is important to have a digital health record that can be shared between health providers to improve health outcomes for Australians. We think that's important. It's why we established this system in the first place as an informed consent model. But what we also think is it is such an important reform, let's actually take the time to get it right and not rush it. And that's what the government seems to be doing."



### **HEALTH RECORD - O'NEILL – SKY NEWS**

"I'm waiting to see what happens if I try to opt out because everything that this government's touched, anything to do with technologies, has failed people. Remember the census; we saw the debacle with the NAPLAN online rollout. There's just litany of stories of failure involving technology."

### **MARRIAGE PLEBISCITE - SHORTEN- RADIO INTERVIEW - TOM & WARREN ON JOY**

"It was just madness. My view is that people's relationships are their own business. And also, under our system of Parliament, we make laws. Why is it that when it came to gay people, all of a sudden we had to have a special law making process? It just seemed to me, weak. And did you know since then - what is it? 5,420 marriages have occurred. That's good."

### **ANTI-PHOENIXING-LEIGH – GOLD COAST**

"We've seen in recent years firms on the Gold Coast go into liquidation without paying other businesses, their workers and taxpayers. A recent report estimates that phoenixing could cost the Australian economy as much as \$5 billion a year. This isn't just businesses that get burned - it is families and workers. At the moment, as one expert puts it, you could almost register your dog as a company director"

### **DUTTON DEPORTATIONS - DREYFUS-ABC RN BREAKFAST**

"This is shocking Fran and its almost unprecedented for six State and two territory Directors of Public Prosecutions to be writing to Home Affairs saying that the policy that appears to have been adopted by Home Affairs, which is that they are going to deport alleged criminals facing trial for serious criminal offences before that trial can take place. That's a shocking state of affairs"

### **GOVT ATTACK ON ALP'S NEGATIVE GEARING REFORMS - KENEALLY – SKY NEWS**

"If house prices start to go down under a Liberal government, apparently that's okay, but if they start to slow down a bit under a Labor government, well, you know, its catastrophe. This is quite ridiculous from Mathias Cormann."

### **WAGE GROWTH - O'CONNOR – CANBERRA**

The fact is 2.1 per cent - the September quarter figures for private sector workers - is not sufficient to cope with cost of living pressures. In fact, if you look at the years between 1998 and 2012, you will see that the average wage growth was 3.8 per cent. So we are nowhere near those sorts of wage outcomes before the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government was elected five and a bit years ago.

## LONELINESS - GILES-ABC RN BREAKFAST

"We often celebrate that we are into our 27<sup>th</sup> year of economic growth, but it doesn't say much for the society that is being built by that economic growth if so many Australians feel this way, and even more so, this is carrying awful health consequences for them. That one in four Australians experience loneliness, that one in five don't have someone they feel they can talk to, that so many Australians don't engage with their neighbours. So we know the extent of loneliness, and the report is also telling us about the consequences. Poor for general health, very poor for mental health. This is something that government has to respond to, if we're serious about looking after Australians."

### QUOTES OF THE WEEK

*"We had a bus long before Scott had it, and we've even been on the bus!" - Bill Shorten*

*"We've got a baseball wearing, pie eating, out of touch, Prime Minister who doesn't know whether he should be on a bus or a plane in Queensland and he is dangerous in the international context." - Senator Deborah O'Neill*

*"What he's got to realise is he's running Australia not an advertising campaign" - Bill Shorten on the way the PM is behaving*

*"It is therefore regrettable that our good work and practical support for the Pacific has been recently damaged by an Environment Minister on "L-plates" through the unfortunate incident with former President Tong of Kiribati. It demonstrated a lack of diplomacy, understanding and respect for one of our nearest neighbours." - Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells*

*"The problem isn't so much that Tony Abbott wants to live in the 1950's; it's that he wants the rest of Australia to go back there and keep him company." - Anthony Albanese giving the annual John Button Lecture*

*"The 'sky will fall in' rhetoric from those who opposed equality for so long obviously hasn't come to pass. Life has gone on as normal." - Penny Wong speaking on the anniversary of marriage equality*

*"The survey was not only a complete charade, unrelated to the real pathway to reform, but was extremely distressing for many LGBTIQ people and their families." - Sally Rugg, Marriage equality campaigner, responding to the boats of Malcolm Turnbull that the achievement of marriage equality was all down to him.*

*"This is not your victory Malcolm. I just wrote a story up about the history and you dragged your feet at every turn. The people did this, not you. Thank them and stop trying to take credit." - Amanda Tattersall Founder - Get Up*

*"I am going to declare my gender today, as I can, to be a woman, and then you'll no longer be able to attack me. — Barry O'Sullivan – Qld National Party Senator and full time troglodyte throws some transphobia into an anti-abortion screed. He rounded out the speech by calling tofu "dried grass".*

*"The Earth is in a death spiral. It will take radical action to save us" — George Monbiot (The Guardian):*

### WORDS OF WISDOM

*Anthony Albanese giving the annual John Button Lecture*

*"I argue we need to talk with people who disagree with us. Engage – Debate - Advance.*

*To put it simply, we need to argue our case - every forum, every opportunity. Conducting politics in an echo chamber does nothing to advance a progressive agenda.*



*If you have faith in your ideals and policies, there is nothing to fear from debating them.*

*What's more if one of the distinguishing characteristics of being on the left of the political spectrum is a faith in humanity, there is an obligation to engage as broadly as possible."*

*"The Coalition's business model has been division. Instead of working with institutions, they want to tear them down. Ruthless partisanship is a failed model of Government. It produces plenty of heat. But no light. It saps your energy, but gets you nowhere."*

*"Part of their problem is a slavish devotion to the fantasy that the free market holds the solution to everything and that everything will work out perfectly if only governments would get out of the way.*

*But the market has no conscience.*

*There is a role for government intervention in circumstances where market failure is working against the public interest.*

*That is why Labor seeks government - as participants, rather than observers.*

*Not as an end in itself but to improve the lives of the many, rather than the few."*



## EQUALITY

On the anniversary of victory for marriage equality it's worth remembering that, that old fashioned Pentecostal devotee, Scott Morrison voted against it.

## REAL PRIVACY

Over 100 government bodies have requested access to your metadata

Brisbane City Council, Queensland Transport and the Canterbury-Bankstown, Fairfield and

Rockdale councils in Sydney have all appeared on a list of Australian agencies' requesting consumers' metadata from telecommunication companies.

Agencies have reportedly requested information on numbers called by users, location and length of calls, and email address.

While Brisbane City Council has yet to answer questions over the requests, Fairfield City and Canterbury-Bankstown Council have listed illegal dumping as reasons for accessing metadata.

## LET THEM SUFFER

Prime Minister Scott Morrison denies ever setting a [Christmas deadline](#) for getting child refugees off Nauru, and announces that any kids evacuated for medical reasons [will eventually be returned \(\\$\)](#).

Meanwhile from 'The Guardian':

The Senate has rejected a bid by [Peter Dutton](#) to subject 108 asylum seekers in Australia to a fast-track refugee application process that limits their rights of appeal. On Tuesday evening the Senate voted 33 to 29 against extending the reach of the fast-track process, with Labor, the Greens, Centre Alliance and Tim Storer combining to pass a disallowance motion moved by Greens senator Nick McKim.

In 2014 the Abbott government established [a fast-track refugee application assessment process](#) for asylum seekers who arrived in Australia between August 2012 and January 2014.

Those asylum seekers have their applications judged by the immigration assessment authority, with more limited rights of appeal against findings of fact and adverse information than those whose cases can be reviewed in the migration and refugee division of the administrative appeals tribunal.

McKim told the Senate the Home Affairs minister's legislative instrument would extend that process to people who arrived before 2012, denying them the ability to "fully explore" options to appeal against a departmental decision that they were not owed protection.

People in the fast-track "are not given a fair opportunity to put forward their case for asylum" and respond to adverse information, he said, leaving people "blindsided by issues and evidence" they did not know they needed to deal with to succeed in their refugee application.

"This is a significant denial of natural justice," McKim said. "This creates different classes of people in Australia, some who have access to certain legal options and others who do not.

"It continues the demonisation of people seeking asylum to extract electoral and political advantage."

**Labor Senator Kim Carr** said the ALP would support the motion, noting that the instrument did "nothing" for Australia's border security because it affected the rights of 108 individuals who were already in Australia.

Carr noted that Labor had already committed to abolish the fast-track process because it "does not provide fair, thorough and robust" assessment and review of refugee applications.

**Carr** accused the government of "failing to treat people in the Australian community with the respect they deserve" and being "completely out of touch".

## NO INTEGRITY - SMH

Australia is becoming more corrupt because successive federal governments have failed to create an effective national anticorruption body similar to the NSW Independent Commission against Corruption, a leading jurist has argued. Writing in support of a national anti-corruption body, David Harper, a former Court of Appeals justice at the Supreme Court of Victoria, noted that in 2012 Australia ranked seventh in Transparency International's global corruption index, but that today we were ranked 13th. "The lack of a federal anticorruption agency remains a reason why we have never come close to being corruption-free," he has written in an opinion piece for the Herald's website, [smh.com.au](#). Mr Harper writes that the lack of an effective federal anti-corruption watchdog had allowed corruption to flourish undetected and, in turn, allowed federal politicians to hide behind the myth that the fed

## KICK 'EM OUT

If there was just one issue that demonstrates why this rancid incompetent government needs to be thrown out its their decision to give a \$200 million electoral bribe to Bob Katter for his vote in the House of Representatives to save their jobs while cutting the funding of Foodbank by 50% that would be it.

Food-relief agencies, including Foodbank, OzHarvest and SecondBite, collectively work in partnership with agencies such as Anglicare to help alleviate hunger. They have a critical role to play in supporting vulnerable people and allowing agencies to do their work in supporting our most disadvantaged.

The demand on emergency-relief services is growing. People are struggling to pay their household bills, let alone put food on the table.

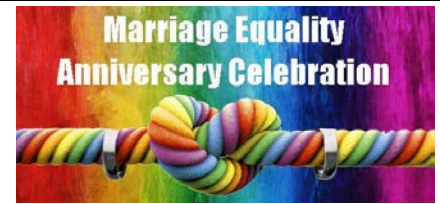
Children are going to school hungry. The demand is so high that agencies, including Anglicare and Foodbank, are turning people away.

A government that would even entertain cutting funding to groups like Foodbank clearly either doesn't have a clue about the 1.4 million Australians living in poverty or couldn't care less. [\[After a maelstrom of protest the government has reinstated the funding for Foodbank. Ed\]](#)

## GETTING AWAY WITH IT

The first legal penalty against a financial adviser resulting from issues before the financial services royal commission has been handed down in the form of a \$50,000 fine and costs against former celebrity adviser Sam Henderson. But there is no certainty that Mr Henderson will pay up and no sure-fire legal way for the Financial Planning Association (FPA) to force him.

The hit came after the FPA's independent Conduct Review Commission found he had breached its rules nine times in giving advice to a client that would have seen her lose \$500,000 in superannuation entitlements if she had followed it.



Mr Henderson made a very poor choice of target when offering the bad advice. The client was lawyer and Fair Work Commissioner Donna McKenna, who rejected the advice, launched a complaint to the FPA and offered herself as a witness to the royal commission.

Payment is optional

FPA chief executive Dante De Gori told *The New Daily* that levying the fine did not mean Mr Henderson would pay up as it has no legislative power to enforce it. Rather it relies on enforcing the contract entered into as a result of FPA membership.

"We would like him to pay it. If he doesn't pay up, it would go through debt collection and a commercial decision by FPA about taking him through the courts," Mr De Gori said and went on to say that FPA may not force payment. Pursuing a roundabout legal remedy is a doubtful prospect for the FPA because the cost of enforcing it may not be worth the risk of failure. So much so that the FPA has not chanced its arm on such an action yet. "We've never taken legal action before. A lot of people pay [when penalties are levied] but some don't. It is possible he won't pay the fee," Mr De Gori said.

### QLD BOY FLYS A KITE

A Queensland schoolboy is heading to NASA after his proposal to build watches for colour-blind people won a national science competition.

Ten-year-old Hamish Lane who lives on the Gold Coast came up with the idea to help his younger brother, Kurt.

"He is colour-blind in red and green and I thought there might be a better way to help him and other people around the world too," Hamish said.

The St Vincent's Primary School student has designed how he imagines the watch could work.

"It has an inbuilt colour detection sensor," he said.

"So inbuilt colour, and when you point the watch at an object, it displays the colour in words on the screen."

Hamish entered his idea into the Little Big Idea competition, which asked students in grades three to eight to come up with an invention.

He was announced as the grade three and four winner in front of his classmates, family and teachers at a surprise school assembly on

Wednesday morning. "I was really excited. I was shocked. I didn't know it was coming," Hamish said.

### OPTING OUT - Sue Dunlevy (Herald Sun)

Your dietitian, dentist, podiatrist, occupational therapist or optometrist will be able to see if you are impotent, have a sexually transmitted disease or a drug addiction unless you set access controls on the controversial online My Health Record, it has been revealed. The major new privacy concerns emerged after the government was yesterday forced into an embarrassing call to delay the roll-out for 10 weeks.

The Australian Medical Association was the only major health group not calling for a delay. The others were concerned the record would come into effect before key privacy and security upgrades had been passed by parliament.

### PLAYING AWAY - Esther Han - (SMH - Health Reporter)

The chairman of the agency responsible for the bungled My Health Record rollout, Jim Birch, has been privately advising a global healthcare outsourcing company. The Herald discovered the relationship between the UK based company Serco and the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) chairman Jim Birch after obtaining a number of internal documents.

The revelation comes as federal Health Minister Greg Hunt was forced to extend the My Health Record opt-out period after a compromise deal with the Senate crossbench and a last-minute website meltdown left thousands of Australians struggling to meet the original deadline.

Lisa Parker, a public health ethics expert at the University of Sydney, said the public had been asked to trust that the agency was acting in its best interests. She said the agency should make public any information relevant to that trust. "Some members of the public may select not to place their trust in board members who they perceive to have conflicts of interest,"

Recently the director of privacy at the agency behind My Health Record quit amid claims the organisation and Health Minister Greg Hunt's office have not been taking the concerns of internal privacy experts seriously enough.

Immediately following inquiries by the Sydney Morning Herald Birch quit his advisory role with Serco, so clearly he knew it was wrong.

[Serco is a giant multinational that feeds on the privatisation of public services including private prisons.

Wikipedia says this;

"Serco runs the Borallon Correctional Facility in [Queensland](#)<sup>[81]</sup> as well as the national contract for immigration detention centres, including [Christmas Island](#) and the [Villawood detention centre](#) in Sydney.<sup>[82][83]</sup>

The [Union of Christmas Island Workers](#) highlighted the systemic failure by Serco to manage the [Christmas Island Immigration Reception and Processing Centre](#). The centre detains a large number of refugees including 1,000 children.<sup>[84]</sup> Under Serco, there has been an increase of deaths in custody, self-harm, and of Serco staff beating prisoners. As well, there has been a deterioration of facilities leading to the decline of the physical and the mental health of detainees and of staff. [Ombudsman Allan Asher](#) said on the Australian radio show AM, "In the first week of June when I visited Christmas Island, more than 30 incidents of self-harm by detainees held there were reported".<sup>[84]</sup> Serco, in a staged memo leaked to [The Australian](#), blamed the detainees for "creating a culture of self-harm", in order to use it as a "bargaining tool".<sup>[84]</sup> The former manager of the Serco run detention centre stated the centre was grossly understaffed whereby it was "typically 15 staff members short every day".<sup>[84]</sup> [It's a company who's ethical and transparency record is dim to say the least. David Margan, Editor.]





## WE NEED PENALTY RATES - Dana McCauley (The Age)

Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz has backed unions on penalty rates, saying cuts to Sunday rates in Australia indicate that workers' power has been eroded. "The economy is supposed to be helping increase people's living standards – and part of living standards is enjoying leisure," Professor Stiglitz said. "If you have to work on a Sunday, you should get compensated ... And the background of this [is that] the bargaining power of workers has been eviscerated. They would want to say 'I don't want to work on a Sunday' – but they can't say that." The respected American economist and Columbia University professor, who is in Australia to accept the Sydney Peace Prize, also supports the Australian Council of Trade Unions' demand for industry-wide bargaining, which he sees as necessary to address weak wage growth. "When you don't have any collective voice for workers, obviously workers are not going to do as well," he said.



In a speech at the National Press Club in Canberra yesterday, Professor Stiglitz called on governments to address inequality and warned that doing so was crucial to a well-performing economy. He urged Australia to learn from the mistakes of the US, where he said worker rights had been eroded through a series of policy failures based on trickle-down economics. "We thought that you could only get more equality by sacrificing economic growth," he said. "That view is no longer accepted ... Having a progressive agenda with greater equality leads to higher economic growth and that higher economic growth then generates more tax revenue – and that more tax revenue gives you a source of funding for more progressive reforms that can make a more inclusive society."

## THE CORRUPT PAY LESS

Australia's finance and insurance industry this week added another dubious claim to fame. For five years running now, it has topped the Workplace Gender Equality Agency's list of the biggest gender pay gap by industry. Who came second? Interestingly, the construction industry – also the subject of a royal commission from 2001 to 2003, concurrently, of course, with the royal commission into the collapse of Australia's second-biggest insurer at the time, HIH Insurance.

## DUMB TRADE – Bernard Keane (Crikey)

For years, the Abbott/Turnbull/Morrison/who-next government has been peddling lies about preferential trade deals, insisting what it erroneously calls "free trade agreements" are a major source of economic benefit to Australia. But again and again and again and again the Productivity Commission has demonstrated this to be nonsense, finding at best "modest benefits" from the trade diversion such agreements amount to, offset by damage inflicted by DFAT bureaucrats on the national interest in deals such as the rotten AUSFTA and the threat of investor-state dispute resolution clauses. The Coalition has persistently refused to let the Productivity Commission, or anyone else, examine such deals before signing up to them, because their benefit is not economic but political, to the extent that they can parade such agreements to voters as evidence of an economic strategy.

## WHO'S GOT THE MONEY?

The percentage of Australia's entire wealth held by the richest 10% has increased significantly since 2013. The average for Labor's last three years – 2011 to 2013 – was 50% exactly. It rose to 51.1% in 2014, then to 51.3% in 2015. It peaked at 52.7% in 2016, then settled back last year to 52.3%. It is now back up to the all-time high of 52.7%.

## Wealth of the poorest half

Half the population owned 10.4% of all Australia's wealth in 2012 and 2013, Labor's last two years in office. Not much, but way higher than 7.7% back in 2010 when the Credit Suisse series began. The percentage actually fell during 2014 and 2015 to 10.2%, then collapsed in 2016 to 6.2%. That was apparently a statistical blip, as the level improved in 2017 to 9.5%.

This year's percentage is 9.1% which confirms that 2016 was an aberration, but also that the steady decline under the Coalition is continuing.

## National earnings per person

The most dramatic deterioration in Australia's fortunes during the current global boom in trade, investment, jobs and profits has been in gross domestic product per adult. This measures the total income Australians enjoy from all sources.

This increased impressively through the Labor years – despite the global financial crisis – then more gradually through to 2016. Last year, however, it collapsed by almost 30% – from \$99,452 per adult down to \$71,403.

This was not a statistical aberration, as the level this year remains at \$77,007 per adult, a slight improvement on 2017 but still way below levels for most of the last decade.

## NATIONAL SECURITY OR NATIONAL DISGRACE? - Madeleine Miller (Freelance journalist-Crikey)

Bernard Joseph Edward Collaery, barrister, and Witness K are charged with criminal offences for allegedly revealing information about ASIS posing as aid workers and bugging the Timor-Leste cabinet to listen in to oil negotiations in 2004. Such actions by ASIS, in quite clear breach of international law, could also constitute a misuse of power under Australian law.

Why is there so much secrecy around the case? It's all down to a 2004 piece of counter-terrorism legislation, the National Security Information (Criminal or Civil Proceedings) Act.

The law was intended to set out the power the court already had to prevent certain information from being revealed to the public (obvious cases relate to the protection of children, but it also included matters of national security). But, one highly contentious development was the expansion of the involvement and role of the attorney-general in the court process; the attorney-general would now have direct input on whether to make trials private on matters of "national security".

The law was criticised for being quickly introduced to Parliament with limited opportunity for scrutiny by the public. With very late notice, the bill was put before the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee. The Attorney-General's Department had failed to convince several senators and lawyers' organisations (including the Law Council of Australia, Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, the NSW Bar Association and the Australian Press Council) that the law did not threaten the right to a fair trial.

There were concerns about the broad definition of "national security" that could land someone a trial behind closed doors, the ability of the accused's lawyer to be excluded from parts of the trial if they did not hold a security clearance (which can be a lengthy exercise to acquire), and the law's failure to make clear the exact effect of the attorney-general's opinion.

Labor Senator Nick Bolkus commented:

"In my 24 years in politics I have seen some fairly offensive pieces of legislation but, unless I have got it wrong, this one appears to be the most pernicious of the lot."



Law Council of Australia President, Bret Walker SC, said:

"A fair trial is a part of national security. It is not true to say that a free citizenry stands apart from national interests... You do pursue criminals by giving them rights — otherwise we better get used to the idea that a trial is simply a waste of public time and money — a ritual before you shoot someone."

On Friday last week morning, Chief Magistrate Lorraine Walker **decided** that, under the NSI Act, the trial against Collaery and Witness K could not go ahead until Attorney-General Christian Porter either issues a certificate declaring that he considers the information in this case would be "prejudicial to national security" or not prejudicial. It is anticipated he will issue a certificate saying the case is prejudicial to national security.

If this happens, under the NSI law, the court must close to the public and then decide whether the rest of the trial should be held behind closed doors.

In a statement released last week, the Australian Lawyers Alliance said:

"An open court is usually an essential component of a fair trial and we believe it is required for the defence to be able to properly exercise their right to defend themselves. However, we still maintain there is no public interest in this case proceeding at all."

It is anticipated that Porter will soon issue a non-disclosure certificate and that the preliminary hearings will recommence in secret as early as February next year.

**[Truth is the charges are simply revenge for the embarrassment the Government suffered when its bugging was revealed.Ed]**

### FOXTEL'S MERRY CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas! Also you're fired. There's probably never a good time to lose your job, but spare a thought for the Foxtel TV division employees who were made redundant the same day the company Christmas party invitations were sent out.

### SIGN UP

I just signed the petition "[Minister.Hunt@health.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Hunt@health.gov.au): Reverse 8-year Medicare rebate freeze to reduce "gap" payments which patients must pay" and wanted to see if you could help by adding your name. Our goal is to reach 9,939 signatures and we need more support. You can read more and sign the petition here: <https://chn.qe/2yXkJgg>

### DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

The Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) is significantly concerned about a measure in this year's budget to reduce the period of time a person with a disability who have been charged and convicted of a crime can suspend their Disability Support Pension. The advice provided to AFDO is that this measure is a policy decision not a legislative decision.

We encourage you to write to Minister Fletcher's Office stating your concerns about this measure as outlined in the attached letter. Please feel free to use the information contained in the AFDO letter although please don't just resend AFDO's letter.

Minister Fletcher can be contacted at either:

[Paul.Fletcher.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Fletcher.MP@aph.gov.au)

[Minister@dss.gov.au](mailto:Minister@dss.gov.au)

Currently people with a disability in these circumstances can suspend their DSP for up to two years. The measure seeks to reduce that period to thirteen weeks. The consequences of this measure will be that many people with disability will have to reapply for the DSP upon exiting prison. As this process can take many months people will most likely be shifted onto Newstart when they are actually eligible for the Disability Support Pension. AFDO believes that this measure will have serious social and personal consequences for people with disability who are particularly vulnerable and highly marginalised.

In June 2018 at the Senate Estimates hearings for the Community Affairs References Committee where Department of Human Services gave evidence it became clear through questioning that the total amount of savings from this measure factoring in the projected costs of implementing the measure would come to \$440,000 per year. DHS stated that this measure would affect 2,200 people per year but it was likely that of that number only 200 people with disability would lose their DSP. More alarmingly, people with disability who had been charged but who were awaiting hearing on remand would also be subject to this measure.

**Please write to Minister Fletcher as a matter of urgency - Kind Regards, Patrick McGee**

### HELP THE HORSE



Highfields Pioneer Village are raising funds for the ongoing care of their Miniature pony Clementine (and her friend Charlie the Clydesdale) who were viciously attacked by dogs in the morning on Monday 5th of November 2018.

<https://www.gofundme.com/zw2h6x-clementine>

Kind Regards, Jody Dodds Treasurer Highfields Pioneer Village, Museum and Park Inc. Non-profit organisation run entirely by Volunteers. Open 10am to 4pm Daily 07 4696 6309 / 0409 586 237 [highfieldspioneervillage@hotmail.com](mailto:highfieldspioneervillage@hotmail.com)  
P.O Box 325, Highfields QLD 4352.

<http://highfieldspioneervillage.com.au/> <http://eastervintagefestival.com/>

**Dedicated to preserving the history of the Darling Downs for future generations.**

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### SWITCHING TO THE NBN

You may find your internet costs rising by as much as 17% which you just shouldn't accept, so do the following;

**Here's how you do it**

Step 1: Visit [MyBroadbandComparison.com.au](http://MyBroadbandComparison.com.au) and select the features that meet your broadband needs.

Step 2: Once you input the details of your current broadband usage, you'll be put in touch with a qualified broadband specialist, who can organise everything over the phone with you. As at August 2018, 4.3 million homes and businesses had been connected to the NBN network. If you are already connected to the NBN, you should be reconsidering your broadband provider, especially if you defaulted to the same provider you were with before the NBN.

## MONSTERS AT WORK

# ACTU

australian council of trade unions

More than 60 percent of women have been sexually harassed at work but less than half of those harassed have reported the incident, according to the interim results of a survey being run by the peak body for working people, the ACTU.

More than 7500 people have participated in the survey which began on September 18 and will be open until the end of November.

Of those who answered questions about their experience of sexual harassment, 61 percent of women and 35 percent of men said they'd experienced sexual harassment at work.

Forms of harassment included crude or offensive behaviour, unwanted sexual attention, inappropriate physical contact, and harassment on social media.

The survey also found that 64 percent of people had witnessed sexual harassment at work.

Despite the prevalence of sexual harassment revealed by the survey, of those who'd witnessed sexual harassment in their workplace two thirds did not make a formal complaint, and 40 percent didn't tell anyone at all. More than half feared negative consequences if they spoke up.

The survey remains open until the end of November. People wishing to take part can go to [australianunions.org.au](http://australianunions.org.au)

The final results of the survey will be revealed after responses close at the end of this month.

Quotes attributable to ACTU President Michele O'Neil:

"Everyone should go to work free from the fear of harassment and unwanted sexual attention.

"For many people – mainly women – today in Australia this is not the reality. Our workplace laws have failed women who are experiencing



harassment at work.

"The fact that thousands have chosen to take part in this survey in only six weeks shows how important this issue is to working people in Australia.

"The interim results show that while nearly two thirds of women have experienced harassment, very few believe that our current rules will deliver them justice.

"We need to change the rules. Sexual harassment is a workplace issue and people who experience it should be able to take it up through the workplace umpire.

"We need access to fair, effective and efficient complaints mechanisms that support people who've been harassed, not punish them."

# ACTU

australian council of trade unions

## NO PENALTY FOR CORPORATE ROBBERS

The Morrison Government is poised to reward businesses owners who've stolen superannuation from working people by giving them a tax deduction for paying the money back, with no further penalties. The superannuation amnesty is one of a suite of measures listed for introduction to the Senate thisweek that undermine the superannuation system established under the historic accords during the Hawke and Keating governments.

The amnesty would effectively reward superannuation thieves by giving them a tax deduction for having gained a competitive benefit by stealing super over the past 26 years – the entire life of the modern superannuation system.

Other measures being introduced by the Morrison Government allow the government or regulatory agencies to interfere with the governance, investment decisions and board structure of high-performing not-for-profit industry funds, while ignoring the bank-owned retail funds.

The Banking Royal Commission unearthed serious wrongdoing, with banks-owned funds syphoning more than \$1 billion of working people's retirement savings out of their accounts through a range of unethical practices that included charging fees for no service, illegally leaving customers in higher-fee accounts and charging the accounts of dead customers.

The ACTU is campaigning to end for-profit super funds and return the system to high-performing not-for-profit retail funds, and to immediately raise super contributions from 9.5 percent to 12 percent.

Quotes attributable to ACTU Assistant Secretary Scott Connolly:

"Everyone should have the right to a dignified retirement. That's what our not-for-profit industry super system is set up to provide, but banks have muscled their way in and are robbing people of their savings, sometimes even after they've died.



"The Morrison Government has resurrected a series of bills that make it easier for bankers to get their hands on the retirement savings of working people.

"It's like they've learned nothing from the Banking Royal Commission.

"They voted against the Royal Commission 26 times, and now they're trying to pretend it isn't happening.

"They want to interfere with the best-run, best-performing not-for-profit industry funds and let the banks keep ripping people off. They want to let people who've stolen super off the hook.

"And they want to take life insurance from young people and those with low super balances, even in high-risk occupations where insurance would be prohibitively expensive without the collective buying power that super funds enable.

"All Senators need to oppose these bills to safeguard the retirement savings of working people."

## WHAT THAT FOUR CORNERS NAVAL GAZE REVEALED

David Margan & 'The New Daily'

As I have opined before in these pages that it amazes me that the people employed to run the ABC usually have no background in any broadcasting let alone the public variety. They have been invariably political appointees.

Sadly the performance of its ex-Chairman and ex- Managing-Director on Four Corners this week was poor indeed.

Their versions of events were so far apart not to be in the same galaxy.



Neither came out well.

Especially when they discussed the tactics required to get the Federal government on side for a \$500 million funding injection.

Did they really think that anything they did would get this government onside?

Any half intelligent person would realise that the Liberal Party loathes the ABC with an unbridled passion and they would love to destroy it even if that is done by slowly throttling it as the material from the New Daily that follows attests.

It's time that the selection process for the very top ABC management jobs, including its Board be run independently and professionally and if

you have to pay over a million for a MD who is brilliant, passionate and tough then pay it!

It's time the place was run properly and a swathe cut through, not the program makers, but the middle management meeting mediocrity.

Time too, for an ABC boss who has the record and intestinal fortitude to tell our politicians to go and ... , you know the rest.

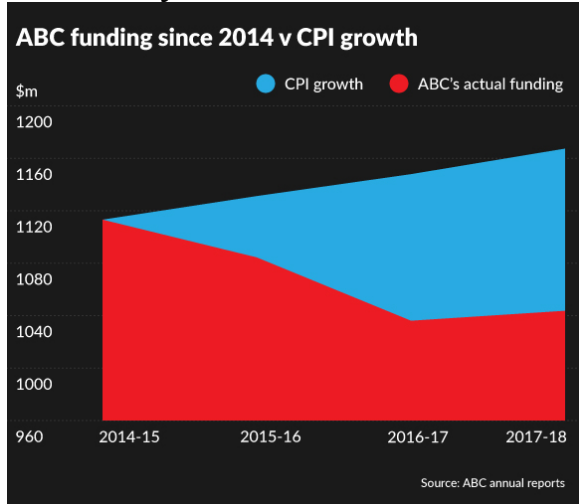
From the New Daily;

"The ABC's recent [management implosion](#) has sparked debate over the future of the embattled public broadcaster, and now existing staff are once again warning the corporation's budget is "unsustainable" and needs "remedial action".

The 86-year-old state-funded organisation has seen a steady decline in its financial support in the past five years, and comments from ABC management staff seen by The New Daily caution that changes need to be made to the corporation's funding arrangements.

"We are at risk of not having sufficient resources to maintain our charter obligations and provide audiences with the services they expect in this hyper-competitive digital environment," the management staff said.

A brief history of cuts



The ABC has faced a steady stream of revenue reductions since the 2014 federal budget unveiled plans to reduce government funding by \$254 million over three years.

This came despite a promise not to cut funding to the ABC or SBS made by then-opposition leader Tony Abbott in the days before the election that made him prime minister.

The reduction in ABC's funding since 2014 widens when considering how much the broadcaster would receive if funding grew in line with inflation.

Since then, the government has cancelled the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's \$197 million Australia Network contract, and reduced the Enhanced News Gathering Program revenue from \$60 million to \$41.4 million, and some suspect this program could be axed entirely in the future.

The most recent budget brought yet more bad news for the broadcaster, announcing an indexation pause that will see funding reduced by a further \$84 million over the next three years.

That's a significant volume of cash, and equates to roughly one-

*10th of the national broadcaster's annual operational revenue (which doesn't include transmission costs) of \$865 million, according to the ABC's latest annual report.*

*When that first round of cuts was announced in 2014, the ABC was allocated \$1113.2 million from the government, but that figure had shrunk to \$1043.7 million by the 2017-18 financial year.*

*What those numbers don't show, however, is the impact of inflation.*

*If the ABC's funding in 2014 had grown in line with inflation, based off CPI figures, then it should have reached \$1167.5 million by the 2017-18 financial year, but it instead fell against its previous levels.*

*What's more is this funding also has to cover the ABC's transmission costs, which former managing director Michelle Guthrie noted are both fixed and expensive during an [impassioned defence](#) of the organisation's state ownership model.*

*Since then-treasurer Joe Hockey announced the decreases in his 2014 budget, the ABC has cut 939 jobs.*

*The ABC's output has also suffered over that time, with programs like Lateline, state-based 7.30 Report editions and various radio shows all getting the axe.*

*Former ABC staff-elected director and public broadcasting advocate Quentin Dempster, who also contributes to The New Daily, said regional news programs could also be killed off, along with the retrenchment of 400 staff, if Liberal senator Mitch Fifield ends the \$41.4 million Enhanced News Gathering Program.*

*"After all the downsizing and program cuts since the 2014 budget, if the Morrison government does not release its current stranglehold on the ABC's throat, there will have to be yet another restructure," Mr Dempster said.*

## HEALTH

### GOVERNMENT FORCED TO ACCEPT MY HEALTH RECORD EXTENSION – King

**The Morrison Government has been dragged kicking and screaming into accepting an extension to the My Health Record opt-out period.**

For months, Labor has been calling for an extension in order to get this important reform right. For months, the Liberals have been insisting there was no need for an extension.

But in the Senate on Wednesday the Government quietly capitulated and accepted a two-and-a-half month extension. It's extraordinary that Labor had to force the Government's hand by introducing legislation to make this happen.

Minister Hunt could have implemented an extension with the stroke of a pen weeks ago.

Labor expects Minister Hunt will now act to keep the opt-out period open, in line with the wishes of the Senate – even though the lower house cannot sign off on the change for two weeks.

Anything else would be scandalous.

While Labor would have preferred a 12-month extension to allow time to address outstanding issues and rebuild community trust, we are pleased with the Senate's decision.

The opt-out period will now end on January 31, 2019, instead of tomorrow. This is a win for common sense and for all Australians.

This will give Federal Parliament the time it needs to pass extra protections and safeguards. It was absurd that the Government wanted to push on with its original timeline before this legislation had passed.

This delay will also give the Government time to address some of the other outstanding privacy issues, particularly around minors, default settings and automatic uploads. The Government should heed Labor's call for a Privacy Commissioner review to help do so.

It will also give the Government more time to roll out its public information campaign so that every Australian can make a more informed choice about whether to opt out – or stay in and enjoy the benefits of the system.

Finally, it will give the people who have not been able to opt out today – because the system has crashed under the enormous weight of demand – more time to do so.

The My Health Record is an important reform and promises many benefits to patients and clinicians. But it's important to get it right.

The Government's implementation of the My Health Record has been a complete debacle from day one.

Hopefully with this further delay they can finally get it right.

### HEALTH INSURERS RAKE IN THE PROFITS AS AUSSIES DITCH THEIR COVER – King

**Private health insurers are continuing to rake in bumper profits, even as more Australians are being forced to abandon their coverage because of record out-of-pocket costs.**

The [latest Australian Prudential Regulation Authority figures](#) show the insurers took in more than \$24 billion in revenue from premiums in the year to September 2018 but paid out only \$20.4 billion in benefits.

That means the insurers are pocketing \$3.6 billion more than they're paying out in benefits.

And that means that each of the 13 million Australians with private health cover shelled out \$277 to the insurers that was not returned in benefits.

The industry remains highly profitable, with net profit after tax coming in at \$1.41 billion for the year to September 2018. The industry's assets have increased by \$491 million in the last 12 months to \$14.1 billion.

But another 5,256 people ditched their hospital cover in the September quarter – meaning the population covered has slipped another 0.2 per cent to 44.9 per cent.

Both hospital treatment and general treatment benefits were down in the September quarter compared to the June quarter – despite an average 4 per cent premium rise earlier this year.

Average out-of-pocket costs were also up once again, with the average gap payment for a hospital episode now up to \$302 – an increase of 1.2 per cent.

The industry is also spending more on management expenses – [like trips to Portugal](#) – up from 8.89% to 8.97% of revenue.

And maybe Scott Morrison's muppet show government should focus less on tearing itself apart and more on making health care more affordable for Australians.

Under the Liberals, premiums have increased by 27 per cent since 2014 – costing families an average \$1,000 more. When will this smug, out-of-touch and illegitimate Prime Minister do something to help people struggling with these costs?

These figures show yet again why Labor's plan to improve affordability – by capping premiums and ordering a major review of the industry – is needed.

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

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

### **LONELINESS REPORT DEMANDS DEBATE - Giles**

**The first comprehensive Australian research on loneliness, released this weekend, represents a challenge policy-makers must respond to.**

The Australian Loneliness Report, produced by the Australian Psychological Society, found that one in four Australians are lonely, and that the issue affects all genders and nearly all age groups.

Labor takes loneliness seriously: as a social policy and public health priority. Labor has been working with academics and organisations to develop a better understand of who is affected by loneliness in Australia, and how it affects them.

Andrew Giles MP has put forward a Private Member's Motion on loneliness, that will hopefully see the issue addressed in the Parliament.

The United Kingdom has recently released a strategy on responding to loneliness. In Australia this important issue, which affects so many lives, deserves to be taken more seriously.

Labor will continue to lead the national debate on this emerging issue.

## **THE LAW**

### **DUTTON READY TO LET CRIMINALS ESCAPE JUSTICE – Dreyfus/Neumann**

**All eight State and Territory Directors of Public Prosecution have been forced to issue a warning that Peter Dutton's Department is ready to let criminals return to their home countries without facing justice, according to reports.**

The unprecedented joint letter reveals the Home Affairs Department has given legal instructions to the DPPs that they will allow a suspected criminal facing trial to go home simply if they request to be deported – no questions asked.

This is a shocking breach of decades of agreed practice - that if a person is arrested and charged with a crime, they must stay in Australia to face justice. Allowing these people to go home without facing trial is effectively allowing them to get away with it.

Labor wants to be clear – we support the deportation of non-citizens on character grounds. But this is an entirely different matter – we are talking about people who have been arrested and charged with a crime, awaiting trial in Australia. There are measures- such as holding suspects in remand or immigration detention- to keep the Australian public safe while these people await trial.

It even creates the situation – as the letter from DPPs states – where those intending to commit a crime could come to Australia, then simply request to be deported before they face trial. This would create an obscene form of crime tourism.

For a minister who presents himself as tough on crime, this is a shocking dereliction of duty. Mr Dutton must immediately explain what has occurred within his Department – and if the facts as presented by the DPPs are in fact accurate, he must reverse his position on allowing foreign-born criminals to get away scot free. If Mr Dutton will not act, Mr Morrison must force him to. Australians deserve better than this.

## **GOVERNANCE**

### **THE COALITION MUST STOP ACCEPTING FOREIGN POLITICAL DONATIONS – Farrell/Leigh**

**With the Senate voting today to ban foreign donations, the Prime Minister must immediately instruct Liberal and National party officials to stop accepting foreign money.**

Labor voluntarily refuses all foreign donations, the Liberals can't justify taking a cent more.

717 days after Labor introduced our plan for political donations reform, the Senate has finally passed the Government's legislation to ban foreign donations.

The Government has taken more than two years to reach this stage but, despite its snail's pace, has still managed to fumble foreign donations reform at every step.

When the government finally responded to Labor's calls for a ban on foreign donations, they introduced a piece of legislation that didn't just ban foreign donations; it also hit charities, not-for-profits, advocacy groups, and churches.

The Coalition tried to hijack this important reform and use it as an opportunity to shut down their critics.

nd if they had gotten their way, Australia's charities and not-for-profits would have been reeling from yet another Coalition attack on their right to play an active part in our democracy.

Labor said at the outset that we would not support legislation that undermined our charities and not-for-profits, and we've worked closely and constructively with organisations all over the country to ensure the sector can continue to do the work Australians trust it to do.

We set out to fix the government's mess, and we've done just that.

**FOREIGN  
DONATIONS HAVE  
NO PLACE IN  
AUSTRALIAN  
POLITICS**

**Labor** 



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

We took a clear donation policy to the last election and will continue to push further reform guided by our commitments.

Labor recognises the need to improve transparency in the political system and will continue to consult widely with all affected parties to establish a real time disclosure regime and move to reduce the donation disclosure threshold from \$13,800 indexed to inflation to a fixed \$1,000 as a priority.

### **TURNBULL CONSIDERED NIC – SO WHERE IS MORRISON? – Dreyfus**

**Revelations last night that former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull was planning to introduce a National Integrity Commission before being rolled show the deep divisions within the coalition on this important issue.**

Labor has been calling on the government since January to work with us on establishing a federal anti-corruption body. Our commitment to legislate for a National Integrity Commission within 12 months of government is rock solid.

The chaotic coalition has been all over the place on this issue. While Turnbull said he had *'an open mind,'* Barnaby Joyce and Michael Sukkar scorned the idea. Christian Porter said he could see *'no persuasive evidence'* a National Integrity Commission was necessary.

Now, thanks to 7:30, we discover Mr Turnbull and Mr Porter were in fact working on a National Integrity Commission before Mr Turnbull was dumped by his own party. They said one thing in public, and another thing entirely in private.

But new Prime Minister Scott Morrison cannot ignore the idea for ever. There is overwhelming public support for a National Integrity Commission, and the crossbench is onside.

So the question is – will this be just like the Banking Royal Commission? Will Scott Morrison scorn the idea, and then pretend it was his once he announces it like the marketing man that he is?

Australians won't buy it.

Labor is proud to be leading the national conversation on important policy ideas like a National Integrity Commission, even if the government won't join in.

### **A BETTER FEEDBACK LOOPS: LABOR TO ESTABLISH AN EVALUATOR GENERAL - Leigh**

**A Shorten Labor Government will deliver better government programs by creating an Evaluator General.**

The office of the Evaluator General, to be based within Treasury, will work with other departments to conduct high-quality evaluations, preferably randomised trials, of government programs.

Increasingly, policymakers in other nations are testing programs through randomised trials, with the same kind of control group used to evaluate new pharmaceuticals in clinical drug trials.

When Australian policymakers develop programs in early childhood, health, crime and employment, we often look to those overseas randomised trials.

But while there have been a handful of local randomised policy trials - such as Victoria's Journey to Social Inclusion experiment and the Early Years Education Program – relatively few Australian policies are subjected to rigorous evaluation.

The Auditor-General, the Productivity Commission, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the former COAG Reform Council and the Grattan Institute have all called for better evaluation of Australian government programs. The test-learn-adapt approach is vital to making progress on major challenges such as wage inequality, social mobility and Closing the Gap.

Last year, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Tax called for the tax office to:

*... make greater use of behavioural insights techniques, such as randomised controlled trials, before full implementation of new initiatives to determine if such changes are indeed better than current practices, and if so, which changes are the most effective.*

Many of the world's most successful companies use randomised trials to boost productivity. In development economics, donors such as the World Bank and the Gates Foundation use randomised trials to identify the programs that are most effective at alleviating poverty.

The Evaluator General will collaborate with existing evaluation bodies, in addition to working with the Evidence Institute for Schools, a body Labor has pledged to create within the Department of Education and Training. The Evaluator General will be funded with \$5 million per year, starting in 2019-20.

## **ECONOMY**

### **HANSON MUST EXPLAIN SUPPORT FOR \$1.2 BILLION GST CUT TO QLD – Watt**

**Yet again, Pauline Hanson has sold out Queensland in her pursuit of votes in other states.** On Tuesday in the Senate, Pauline Hanson's last remaining colleague, WA Senator Peter Georgiou, called for massive changes to GST distribution among the states:

*"the government should announce that the distribution of GST will move to a per capita basis over a five year timeframe." (Senator Peter Georgiou, 13/11/18)*

Productivity Commission analysis shows that this change would cut Queensland's share of the GST by \$1.2 billion per year.

That's \$1.2 billion less that Queensland would have to spend on schools, hospitals, roads and frontline staff.

\$1.2 billion would pay the salaries of 3750 nurses, 3750 teachers, 2250 police officers and 750 firefighters for a year. And Pauline Hanson's One Nation is backing it in.

Pauline Hanson has form, in wanting to cut Queensland's GST share. Who can forget her infamous interview on Perth radio, before the WA election:



*"Interviewer: "...would you be willing to see the GST share of your home state Queensland reduced, so that WA can get a better deal?"*

*Hanson: Of course I will – no problem."*

Pauline Hanson is a Senator for Queensland. Queenslanders put their trust in her and she should be fighting for them every day.

But instead she's backing her WA colleague, in an attempt to win votes across the country and keep her last remaining Senator on side.

We're used to Senator Hanson selling out Queensland battlers, by voting with the LNP to cut penalty rates, pensions and apprenticeships.

But this might be Senator Hanson's biggest sell out to date. It would be like Wally Lewis putting on a Blues jersey before the State of Origin.

Pauline Hanson says one thing back home and then does the complete opposite in Canberra.

The truth is, every time she comes down to Canberra, she spends her week doing backroom deals, voting with the LNP and selling out Queensland. Well, Queenslanders deserve an explanation.

## **CAPITAL ECONOMICS NOTE ON LABOR POLICIES – IT'S UTTER TOSH - Bowen**

**Wednesday's report** that Labor's plans will dampen consumer spending and GDP are based on erroneous analysis devoid of reality. Capital Economics needs to re-issue [this note](#) and apologise to clients and the general public for such an appalling piece of 'analysis' and the litany of errors about Labor policies which feature in it.

The centre piece claim, which is completely unfounded, is that Labor's tax measures would increase revenues by \$17 billion a year.

If you're going to publish a note about the impacts of Labor's policies, in the first instance, you better make sure you understand and can explain what they are.

Obviously Capital Economics has access to modern communication technology as evidenced by the fact they've distributed this ridiculous note around the world, so it beggars belief they wouldn't have called, texted or emailed questions about what Labor's policies actually are.

In estimating the impacts on consumer spending and GDP, the '*analysis*' fails to take account of:

- **The impacts of grandfathering which sees Labor's policies introduced gradually over time reducing the direct impact on the economy**
- **Labor's bigger tax cuts over the next 4 years, which would see a bigger boost to consumption than the government's tax cut plan**
- **Labor's Australian Investment Guarantee which will see a new 20% upfront accelerated depreciation for all tangible and intangible investments**
- **Despite the fact they've guessed (wrongly) the impacts of our tax policies, they then fail to incorporate the positive impact of Labor's public investments in health, education and skills.**

*The analysis also goes on to falsely attribute a series of policies to Labor that would negatively impact on GDP, such as Royal Commission into the pricing policies of energy companies and that we'd also cut migration.*

*Capital Economics also falsely claims Labor hasn't put a cost on its commitments to TAFE.*

Labor has the boldest reform agenda for any opposition in 25 years. We are happy to argue these reforms based on facts, but we will never let fictitious and poor analysis drift by without calling it out.

## **WILSON MUST RESIGN CHAIR OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS - Thistlethwaite**

**The Chair of the Standing Committee on Economics Tim Wilson must resign his position immediately after he created a blatantly partisan website that seeks to generate pre-filled public submissions for an inquiry he is chairing.**

This, alongside Mr Wilson's continual public attacks on the very Labor policy he is pretending to chair an inquiry over, make it obvious where this inquiry is headed. These actions undermine the credibility of the inquiry from the beginning.

Tim Wilson has set up an official-looking website "*authorised by*" the "*Chair of the Standing Committee on Economics*" relating to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics' so-called inquiry into Labor's plan to abolish excess imputation credits.

The website features a pre-filled submission form to "*formally register... opposition to scrap refundable franking credits*" as well as various articles attacking the Labor Party and Kerry Phelp.

The pre-filled submissions will effectively mean significant portions of the submissions received by the Committee are written by the Chair of the Committee himself. This means that when the Committee writes its report, it will be relying in large part on evidence written by the Chair.

**There's just no pub test it passes.**

Furthermore, Mr Wilson's website also invites members of the public to then sign-up to Geoff Wilson's dodgy petition against Labor's reforms – the very petition which falsely claims that half the Labor front bench have signed up to it.

This comes back to Josh Frydenberg giving this partisan reference to the Economics Committee. The Government has no plan for the economy or how to grapple with sustained, low wages growth, instead preferring to attack Opposition policy using parliamentary committees.

This Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government is now so out of touch and such a policy free zone that they have no economic policy proposals to investigate – none!

## **GOVT SHOULD BE CONCERNED THAT WAGES CONTINUE TO STAGNATE – O'Connor**

**Labor welcomes the unemployment rate seen in today's Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour force figures, but continues to be concerned about the underlying structural problems of high underemployment and stagnant wages growth.**

We note the modest increase in the number of jobs created last month, but it is clear that there is still more to be done.

The youth unemployment rate continues to be double the national average at 11.3 per cent.

The underutilisation remains at 13.3 per cent. That's approximately 1.8 million Australians who want work, or more work, but can't find it.

We also note with some concern the Government's attempt yesterday to spruik a 2.1 per cent annual increase in private sector wages as a positive shift in stagnant wages growth.

This Government is nowhere near reaching the average percentage wage rates that the previous Labor Government or in fact the Howard Government had under their leadership. It's clear that Scott Morrison and Kelly O'Dwyer are so out of touch that they have no idea what too many Australian workers are experiencing – insecure work, stagnant wages and skyrocketing costs of living pressures.

It is unbelievable that, having presided over the lowest wage growth figures on record, the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government supports cutting wages by slashing penalty rates while spending years advocating for a \$17 billion tax handout to the banks.

## **THE USUAL SUSPECTS NEED TO STOP MAKING IRRESPONSIBLE CLAIMS - Bowen**

It is high time property commentators and Liberal MPs alike stopped making doom and gloom predictions around 'sledgehammers' and 'recessions' – it is economically irresponsible.

SQM's Louis Christopher's 'analysis' seems to be projecting falls of 12 per cent under current policy settings – and that's fine, with no discussion around what is driving that like APRA's macro prudential measures as championed by Josh Frydenberg – but in his view, a further 3 per cent fall in house prices under Labor's reforms would trip the country into recession.

Only a few years ago, [Louis Christopher was supporting Labor's reforms to negative gearing](#), so what has changed? We can only speculate.

Economists without a vested interest agree that our plan is a responsible way to ease pressure in the housing market, to make sure that everyone is competing on a level playing field.

Labor's reforms are fully grandfathered which means that everyone that has a negatively geared investment property today will be completely unaffected by our changes.

Labor's plan is good for the budget, good for construction jobs and fair for first home buyers.

Labor would prefer to invest in better hospitals, schools and TAFE than spend taxpayers' money helping a property speculator with their sixth or seventh investment property.

## **CORMANN THROWS THE 'BIG STICK' UNDER THE SLOMO BUS - Bowen**

The Finance Minister was incapable of defending or explaining how Scott Morrison's thought bubble on divestment powers would work in an interview with Sky News PM Agenda.

Anyone who thought Mathias Cormann supported Scott Morrison's dangerous, ministerial divestiture powers idea, would be left with no misapprehension after seeing his weak defence of it on Tuesday.

If the Government's Leader of the Government in the Senate and second highest economic minister can't mound a credible defence or explanation of the policy, it's probably a sign to let it go.

**DAVID SPEERS, PRESENTER:** *"Do you really think it's a good idea for the government to break up private companies?"*

**MATHIAS CORMANN:** *"Look, we've made certain decisions to ensure, because our commitment and our focus is to bring property prices power down."*

**SPEERS:** *"Power prices?"*

**CORMANN:** *"Power prices. Sorry, that's what I meant to ... it's important to bring power prices down."*

*That is why we've made the announcements we've made. We understand that the obviously some representatives in the electricity sector will not be supportive of that. We understand that. We'll continue to pursue the plan that the Prime Minister has announced."*

**SPEERS:** *"But as a general rule do you Mathias Cormann like the idea of government intervening in the private sector like this?"*

**CORMANN:** *"Well, as a general rule I support government policy. We operate as a team. We operate under the Westminster system. We discuss policy options internally and it's very important we do everything we can to bring power prices down for families around Australia, for business around Australia..."*

**SPEERS:** *"Are we to read into that that you took a different view internally?"*

**CORMANN:** *"No. That is not what you are to read into that. What you can read into that is that the Government discusses all of these issues internally. You can safely assume that I one hundred per cent support government policy."*

**SPEERS:** *"What would be the circumstances under which the Government would break up a private company here?"*

**CORMANN:** *"Well, these are not judgments for me to make. These are the judgments for..."*

**SPEERS:** *"You've agreed to the policy..."*

**CORMANN:** *"But these are not judgments that I make as the Minister for Finance. I'll refer to the relevant minister in relation principle to those matters."*

**SPEERS:** *"I'm just asking about a principle position here, we all get whether upset when power prices go up, whether petrol or power prices, the price of bread. What would it take for the government to intervene and break up a company?"*

**CORMANN:** *"Well, our preference is that this is not going to be required. Our preference is that there would be an appropriate industry response."*

*That's been our position all the way through. What we're saying here to the Australian communities is that we are absolutely serious about doing everything that we can, in implementing all of the relevant report recommendations out of the ACCC report and also of course, exploring - putting on the table the 'big stick' that the Prime have Minister and the Energy Minister of have put forward. That's a matter of course for the Energy Minister relevant if it comes to that to make how the relevant judgment."*

**SPEERS:** *"But are you aware of how the big stick works? That's what I am trying to understand. Do you understand what you've agreed to here?"*

**CORMANN:** *"Of course I understand what we've agreed to. There is a divestiture power..."*

**SPEERS:** *"How does it work? What would it take to divest..."*

**CORMANN:** *"Well...I'm not going to - despite your best efforts - I'm not going to go into the details of another minister's portfolio, in relation to something that hasn't as yet been legislated."*

**SPEERS:** *"Alright. As you know energy companies are threatening to take it to the High Court. Other businesses I can tell you right across the board are worried about this, government doing something like this, intervening in a private company. It's still a little unclear what it would take for you to do that?"*

**CORMANN:** *"Well, I can assure you these that when the Government makes these judgments we rely on all the necessary advice including all of the necessary legal advice. And self-evidently, the courses of action that we decide to take are based on propositions that we believe fall within our constitutional powers."*



## **ARROGANT LIBERALS GIVE COSTELLO JOB WITHOUT CONSULTATION Bowen/Chalmers**

By reappointing Peter Costello as chair of the Future Fund, the Liberals have shown yet again they're more focused on their jobs for mates than on jobs and wages for Australians.

The Liberals have made this [decision](#) just before an election without any consultation with the Opposition despite there still being three months until Mr Costello's term was due to expire.

Labor has repeatedly warned that it would be entirely inappropriate for the Morrison Government to make a decision on the position before the election without consulting the Opposition.

When wages are stagnating and debt has doubled on their watch, it's disappointing but not surprising that the Liberals' biggest priority five minutes before the election is to lock another Liberal into a high-paying position.

The Future Fund is a really important role, and the appointment of its chairperson deserves proper consideration.

Making this decision without consultation is not only poor form, but another example of how arrogant and out of touch the Liberals are.

This comes after the now Prime Minister appointed his former Chief-of-Staff Phil Gaetjens as Secretary of Treasury continuing the Liberal Party's politicisation of the Treasury.

## **CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

### **CONSUMER PROTECTION – A PRELUDE TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION - Ketter**

Labor Senator Chris Ketter has today tabled the Senate Economics References Committee [Report](#) into Consumer Protection in the financial sector.

Labor first started calling for a Royal Commission in April 2016. We listened when ordinary Australians told us they were being ripped off by the banks.

We took notice of the evidence coming through Parliamentary Committee inquiries, like the inquiry into the [Impairment of Customer Loans](#) which – despite reporting in May 2016 – the Liberal National government is yet to respond to.

While the government failed to act, the evidence we heard in that inquiry and this one became a prelude to the Royal Commission.

Notably, this report gives voice to concerns similar to those in the Royal Commission's interim report, including topics such as:

- **Financial counselling and legal services;**
- **The effectiveness of the enforcement regime;**
- **financial advice;**
- **conflicted remuneration arrangements and grandfathered commissions;**
- **mortgage brokers;**
- **fraudulent home loan applications and irresponsible lending;**
- **issues with valuations and foreclosure;**
- **insurance;**
- **engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups;**
- **credit cards; and**
- **gambling limits and credit.**

While the Committee's work here is largely overtaken by the Royal Commission, this inquiry is one component of Labor's work in making sure banking victims in Australia are being heard.

The report makes three clear recommendations:

1. *The committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government give the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry an extension of time to report.*
2. *The committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government provide a response to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services' inquiry into the impairment of customer loans.*
3. *The committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government consider increased funding for community legal and financial counselling services dealing with victims of financial misconduct.*

Labor will continue to scrutinise and stand up to the banks, to make sure all consumers get a fair go.

### **FIFIELD DUMPS HIS DUD CONSUMER AGENDA - Rowland**

Mitch Fifield has dumped his dud plans to abolish the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman, a proposal [roundly opposed by Labor, consumer groups and the telecommunications industry](#).

It's no secret the Minister's original option was part of a devious plan to install his Liberal mates at the [head of a much diminished complaints body](#) that would have left consumers to fend for themselves.

That ridiculous plan lasted all of 5 months – about the same period of time it seemingly takes the Minister to pick up papers in his in-tray.

Instead, the Minister has produced an academic mish-mash of recommendations, many of which fail to explain how the proposed changes will improve the lived experience of consumers.

What is clear is that despite the Abbott/Turnbull/Morrison Government now being in its sixth year, Mitch Fifield continues to be a weathervane in search of a policy principle.

Labor's position on consumer protection has been consistent and simple: we believe industry incentives and accountability must be aligned firmly with consumer outcomes.

Our priority is to address the incentives and root causes which give rise to complaints – this means clear lines of accountability and less complexity.

This is why Labor has announced it will establish [an NBN Service Guarantee](#), with clear incentives and penalties to improve outcomes for consumers and small businesses.

## ENVIRONMENT

### MORE LIBERAL CLIMATE LIES FROM 'L-PLATE' MINISTER – Mark Butler

L-Plate Minister Melissa Price has had another train wreck interview - this time on RN Drive, where she claimed the Morrison government has the "right suite of policies" to bring down carbon pollution and tackle climate change.

Yet when presented with her own Government's latest emissions data which show that greenhouse gas emissions climbed 1.3 per cent - to their highest quarterly levels in eight years - Ms Price said "I doubt anyone could pinpoint the day they can reduce. No one can pinpoint that."

But her own Government's data pinpoint that, under Scott Morrison's hopeless climate change policies, carbon pollution will continue to rise all the way to 2030 (as far as the projections go).

As Tony Wood from the Grattan Institute said yesterday, "It remains a fact that we don't have a climate change policy in this country."

The out of touch Morrison Government will never agree on a policy to reduce carbon pollution and tackle climate change while the hard-right of the Coalition calls the shots on energy policy. Instead, Energy Minister, Angus Taylor, is "absolutely considering" spending billions of taxpayers dollars on uninvestable "fair dinkum" new coal-fired power stations.

Australians deserve a Shorten Labor Government that will take action on climate change, and reduce carbon pollution in line with our 45 per cent emissions reduction target by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.

Labor will invest in a renewable energy future which will lower power prices and secure clean jobs.



### MORE LIBERAL CLIMATE LIES – Mark Butler

[On Wednesday morning on RN Breakfast](#) Energy Minister Angus Taylor has once again repeated the lie that the Liberals will reach their inadequate emissions reduction targets.

Mr Taylor falsely claimed, "We are going to reach our carbon emissions reduction targets... we are well on track to reach Paris." Adding, "We are bringing emissions down, and we're doing extremely well."

In reality it is the complete opposite. Mr Taylor is ignoring his own Government's latest emissions data which show that greenhouse gas emissions climbed 1.3 per cent - to their highest quarterly levels in eight years.

Mr Taylor needs to read his own Government's data which shows that, under Scott Morrison's hopeless climate change policies, carbon pollution will continue to rise all the way to 2030 (as far as the projections go).

But all we have heard from the out of touch Liberals again this morning was they are "absolutely considering" spending billions of taxpayers dollars on uninvestable "fair dinkum" new coal-fired power stations.

Australians deserve a Shorten Labor Government that will take action on climate change, and invest in a renewable energy future which will lower power prices and secure clean jobs.

### MORRISON GOVERNMENT CELEBRATES CATASTROPHIC CLIMATE CHANGE – Mark Butler

Minister Canavan has trumpeted the growth of coal power citing the latest IEA World Energy Outlook. But he neglects to mention that according to the IEA, the 'New Policies Scenario' he bases his claims on is "consistent with an average global temperature increase of around 2.7 °C by 2100, and around 3.5 °C in the long term"

As if we needed more proof the Liberals don't care about climate change, this latest contribution represents the Morrison Government literally celebrating catastrophic global warming.

In the IEA's 'Sustainable Development' scenario, which reflects avoiding the worst impacts of climate change and is consistent with the achievement of Paris Agreement goals, coal power generation falls by 80 per cent globally by 2040.

And in contrast to the Morrison Government's plans to underwrite coal power with taxpayers money, the IEA's actual view of new coal power investment states "developments have undercut the case for new investment in thermal generation in some countries, especially in coal .... and the fall in China has been particularly abrupt,".

Australia needs a government that will take climate change seriously, and will deliver a plan to transition to new sources of power and support industry transition.

Just like the Liberal Abbott and Turnbull Governments before it, the Morrison government simply isn't up to the job.

## WORKERS

### GOVT MUST ACT ON HAZARDS AND APPRENTICE DEATH AT AI GROUP-O'Connor/Cameron

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government must act to ensure that the AiGroup is not putting new apprentices at risk at unsafe workplaces following Wednesday's revelations about the circumstances leading up to the tragic death of 20 year old apprentice Dillon Wu.

The [ABC](#) on Wednesday morning reported that AiGroup and Marshall Lethlean knew about hazards before Mr Wu commenced as a new apprentice at a Marshall Lethlean factory.

The ABC reports:

*"Despite Ai Group identifying 11 high-priority safety hazards in a report delivered to Marshall Lethlean on August 24, its training arm sent Dillon Wu to begin his apprenticeship at the factory a month later".*

It is almost beyond belief that, as Mr Wu's employer, AiGroup chief executive Innes Willox was quoted by the ABC as saying:

*"These were issues that were identified more broadly and were not found or seen to be insurmountable, but needed work done and that would be done over time".*

According to the ABC, Mr Willox suggested that safety hazards outlined in the report would be common in most workplaces.

As far as Labor is concerned, no workplace should have identified safety hazards and not immediately do something about them.

The AiGroup receives a significant amount of federal government funding for their Apprentice and Trainee Centre, the programme that employed Mr Wu.

Labor is very concerned about this incident and whether it reveals a systemic problem with the way AiGroup approaches workplace safety.

Labor calls on the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government to undertake an immediate investigation into whether Ai Group has sent any other apprentices into worksites where workplace hazards existed.

Labor understands that Mr Wu's death is the subject of a WorkSafe Victoria investigation. It is crucial that Ai Group and Marshall Lethlean participate fully to make clear the circumstances surrounding this tragic incident.

## **SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENTS WILL PROTECT HIGH-RISK WORKERS – Bowen/O'Neil**

**Federal Labor will seek to move a set of amendments to improve the Government's *Protecting Your Super* package.** While we support the objective of the bill, which is to protect members' superannuation savings from erosion by fees and charges, there are significant gaps in the Government's proposal which Labor will be seeking to address through amendments to the bill.

We are deeply concerned about the blunt removal of default insurance for large groups of Australians. In its current form, this bill risks leaving younger members and low-income earners – predominantly women – without adequate insurance cover.

Labor will be moving amendments to the bill to allow APRA to carve out funds, or cohorts of members within funds, with a demonstrated need for insurance. This amendment will ensure workers with a high level of risk, workers with young families and workers who wouldn't otherwise be able to access the same level of insurance cover are protected. The Government's proposed exemption is far too narrow, covering only *"dangerous occupations"* – we are worried about the thousands of Australians working in hospital lifting patients, moving boxes in supermarket warehouses and the young working families who would be left destitute without insurance.

We will also be moving amendments to ensure that mothers on maternity leave and workers who are actively engaged in their superannuation or insurance (for example, people who name a beneficiary) are not inadvertently swept up in the definition of *'inactive accounts'*.

Labor will also moving amendments to the bill to speed up the consolidation of superannuation account – so that workers can continue earning a return, rather than having it locked up with the ATO.

Labor is proud to have worked with the union movement to create Australia's world-leading system of universal and compulsory superannuation. We will fight to protect this system and to ensure that workers are protected should the worst happen.

## **LIBERALS EXPOSED YET AGAIN ON SHAM INDEPENDENT CONTRACTING – O'Connor**

**The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government's failure to stand up for working Australians was exposed yet again last night, with another report about the use of sham independent contracts to deny workers' entitlements.**

The [Channel 9 report](#) highlighted the impact on workers who are forced to get an ABN and work as a contractor when they really are an employee - they are in precarious work and denied basic entitlements such as sick leave, workers compensation, holiday pay.

While the Liberals are content to sit by and do nothing for Australian workers, Labor will not.

In 2016 Labor committed to stamping out sham independent contracting, including by reforming the law to make it easier to prove.

A Shorten Labor government will address the problems in our labour market that mean that precarious work is increasing. Reforming the law prohibiting sham independent contracting is a crucial part of this reform.

How much more evidence does this government need before it follows Labor's lead and acts to protect workers' basic rights?

It was just last week that it was reported that Foodora owes nearly \$8 million in wages, superannuation and tax to workers who were wrongly told they were independent contractors.

It is disgraceful that the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has stood idly by when workers have been ripped off and undermined.

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.

This Liberal Government has no interest in improving Australia's workplace relations system. It hasn't even responded to the Productivity Commission [report](#) from 2015 which recommended changes to the test of an independent contractor to discourage sham contracting.

The report states:

*"It is too easy under the current test for an employer to escape prosecution for sham contracting. Recalibrating the test from one of 'recklessness' to 'reasonableness' is justified."* Australian workers are sick of waiting for the Liberals to act.

## **WORKCHOICES CONTINUES UNDER MORRISON GOVERNMENT – O'Connor/Chesters**

**Last Monday night's story on 7:30 highlights the continued use of zombie WorkChoices agreements under the Morrison Government, ten years after WorkChoices was abolished.**

The [program](#) revealed that two current employees of the Merivale group have applied to the Fair Work Commission to strike out their collective agreement made in 2007 on the basis that it leaves workers worse off than the current hospitality award.

Workers on these agreements are often unaware that their entitlements don't meet the Better Off Overall Test.

Adding further insult to injury, this government appears comfortable that it should be up to workers to spend their valuable time making applications to the Fair Work Commission for consideration for them to be struck off for good.

It is clear that the Liberals have taken no action to uncover or abolish zombie WorkChoices agreements because they want people to remain on them.

Labor has committed to abolishing all zombie WorkChoices agreements and, in doing so, will put an end to workers having to fight this battle on their own and in their valuable time.

It is past time for the Government to match Labor's commitment and put an end to these outdated and exploitative agreements once and for all



## **ACTION NEEDED TO CLOSE PAY GAP FURTHER- Plibersek/O'Connor**

While there are some positive trends in the Workplace Gender Equality Agency's (WGEA) 2017-18 scorecards that show improvement in the gender pay gap, more action is needed.

The report shows there is still a 21.3 per cent gap in total remuneration and the pay gap is actually growing in some sectors like construction and health.

On average, women still take home \$25,000 less each year.

Labor established WGEA and introduced pay equity reporting last time we were in government. It's great to see that after five years of reporting, the overall gap is narrowing and there are far more employers analysing their pay data.

But it's important to note that stagnant wages – particularly for men – has been one of the biggest factors in narrowing of the gap. This isn't how we want to close the gap.

There's a big gap between employers analysing their pay data and actually doing something about it. Over 40 per cent of employers who did a gender pay audit took no action to close it.

That's why Labor's proposal to boost pay transparency is so important. Requiring companies with over 1,000 employees to report their gender pay gap publically will give them an incentive to close their pay gap, not just measure it.

The gender pay gap is one of the most persistent forms of inequality in the Australian economy. Instead of celebrating when it's trending down and scratching our heads when it creeps up again, we need to take serious action to close the gap.

Labor has committed to lead a national push to close the gender pay gap. We will:

- Set staged and progressive targets to close the gender pay gap, and to make an annual progress statement to Parliament;
- Legislate so companies with more than 1000 employees have to report their gender pay gap publicly;
- Change the Fair Work Act to prohibit pay secrecy clauses and give employees the right to disclose (or not disclose) their pay;
- Require WGEA to publish a list that shows whether a company with more than 1,000 employees has undertaken a gender pay gap audit and reported the result to its board; and
- Require all Australian government departments and agencies to conduct gender pay audits within the first year of a Labor Government.

Labor will also pay superannuation to parents when they are on Commonwealth paid parental leave schemes – in recognition that taking time out of the workforce to have children plays a role in women's financial security in retirement.



## **CONTENT REVIEW STUCK IN THE FIFIELD TRIANGLE- Rowland**

On Thursday the Minister for Communications and the Arts, Senator Mitch Fifield, refused to comply with a Senate Order for Production of Documents to table the report of the Australian and Children's Screen Content Review.

This is despite the fact the report has now been stuck in the Fifield Triangle for almost a year.

This obstinacy comes on top of the Morrison Government's denial of an [FOI request for the report](#) and their avoidance of a [formal request and attempt by Labor to have the report released](#) at Senate Estimates in October.

In a letter to the President of the Senate, the Minister claims public interest immunity stating:

***"The release of the document at this time would harm the public interest in that it would interfere with the proper consideration by and deliberative processes of Cabinet."***

The Minister is hiding the report from the public domain, despite [his remarks at the outset of the Content Review](#) where he said:

***"And what we want is your views. Dare I say it the answers seldom come from government, or right answers seldom come from government when you are looking at policy settings."***

Unfortunately this Government has failed to deliver answers in a range of key areas in the Communications Portfolio, so you'd think they'd take all the help they can get.

The Minister has continued to stall on the issue of Audio Description, despite the [Audio Description Working Group reporting almost a year ago](#), in December 2017.

The Minister has not delivered a communications policy roadmap centred on a principles-based framework for communications policy, [despite putting the Department to work on it at least two years ago](#).

The Government has not delivered the [spectrum reforms it promised](#), despite the Spectrum Review reporting over three and a half years ago, in March 2015.

The Minister's claim that release of the report of the Content Review would interfere with proper consideration is farcical given his preference for back-door deal making, which saw the grant of \$30 million to Fox Sports, the use of the ABC as a bargaining chip in a deal with One Nation, and his embarrassing inability to explain the terms of his eleventh-hour deal with Nick Xenophon to repeal the two out of three cross-media control rule.

It is unacceptable that Minister Fifield is subjecting the screen sector to his own tardiness and ineptitude.

Minister Fifield prefers to hold back evidence, stymie open public debate on policy options, and subject the sector to uncertainty as it can only guess what shady backroom deal he'll do next.

## EDUCATION

### EDUCATION MINISTER FAILS REGIONAL STUDENTS – Giles/Pratt

Education Minister Dan Tehan's [comments](#) criticising university research on improving outcomes for students in the regions is yet another example of the Minister's willingness to pass the buck on student outcomes.

This Liberal Government has presided over an increasing gap across all levels of regional attainment in education.

The Halsey Review, commissioned by the government, was an indictment on the system, however the Liberals have still failed to act and adjust their policy settings.

This is another example of all talk and no action.

This from a Government that restored funding to non-Government schools but has cut funding to public schools which educate the vast majority of country kids.

And which capped uni places and cut the HEPPP – the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program by around 40 per cent, the fund set up by Labor to support country kids go to uni.

Senator Louise Pratt said *"this week's decision to cut university research is just a patch job to boost places for some regional universities. This doesn't replace what regional universities have lost under this Government. If they really wanted to unlock opportunity they would follow Labor's lead and uncap university places."*

*"I'm concerned that we have a Minister who prefers divisive symbolism to substantive reforms to secure excellence and equity for all Australians,"* Andrew Giles MP said.

*"The immediate difference the Liberals could make for these students is to properly fund the schools that educate most of them, by signing on to Labor's full needs-based funding."*

### REVIEW INTO UNIVERSITIES SIMPLY A DISTRACTION FROM CUTS – Plibersek/Pratt

The announcement of a review of the rules and regulations protecting freedom of speech on university campuses is simply a distraction from the cuts and chaos caused to the sector by the Morrison Government.

Labor does not accept the notion that there is some sort of crisis in freedom of speech at Australian universities.

As the Education Minister points out, Australian universities are autonomous institutions that have their own policies, procedures and practices regarding freedom of speech.

Australian Vice-Chancellors only last week have re-stated their enduring commitment to academic freedom and intellectual inquiry.

The announcement of this review comes after it was revealed last month that the previous Minister for Education and Training vetoed independently approved Australian Research Council funding grants for political reasons.

Instead of pretending there is a crisis of free speech and politicising our research funding, the Government should instead be focussed on supporting our universities to continue to deliver world class research and teaching.

This starts with reversing their more than \$2.2 billion in cuts and lifting all caps on university places so that thousands of Australians don't miss out on the opportunity of a university education.

### TEHAN MUST GIVE CERTAINTY TO RESEARCHERS BEFORE CHRISTMAS - Carr

Minister for Education, Dan Tehan MP, must give certainty to the Australian research community and set a date to announce the Australian Research Council's 2019 round of Discovery Projects and Discovery Early Career Awards.

This is now the latest that the Australian research community has been forced to wait for the announcement of the grants, which are normally made in late October or first days of November.

Our best and brightest researchers are now – because of this Minister's actions – heading into Christmas not sure if they are going to have a job in the new year.

This government has done nothing but try and cover up their blatant acts of vandalism that are damaging Australia's world class university research system.

This compounds the government's war on researchers and universities, following yesterday's announcement of a \$134.8 million cut from the research grants program.

Having already cut investment to science, research and innovation by \$358 million since 2013 – in real terms – the Liberals are now moving on to undermine the integrity of peer review with political influence and intervention.

Today in the Senate, Labor successfully moved a motion condemning this political interference in the normal independent, rigorous and peer reviewed process and called on the government to provide a full and public explanation of why the then Minister for Education arbitrarily rejected eleven grants recommended by the ARC.

Only Labor will restore independence and integrity to the Australian Research Council and Australia's research system.

### SLASHING RESEARCH FOR REGIONAL UNI PLACES A DISASTER - Plibersek/Carr

[Monday's announcement](#) by the Government to slash university research funding to lift the cap on regional university places is reckless and short sighted.

Scott Morrison's latest act of vandalism will further damage Australia's world class university research.

This is taking from a research system that is already grossly underfunded, with science, research and innovation funding (in real terms) having declined by \$358 million since 2013.

If Scott Morrison reversed his reckless decision to cut \$2.2 billion from universities and cap places, the Liberals wouldn't have to rob Peter to pay Paul by slashing research to pay for more student places.

No-one voted for Scott Morrison and no-one voted for him to cut billions of dollars from universities and make it harder for kids and adults from the suburbs and the bush to become the first in their family to get a degree.

Labor uncapped student places back in 2009, which by 2016 saw an extra 220,000 students get the opportunity of a university education. Many of these students were the first in their family to attend university.

When last in government, Labor also invested hundreds of millions of dollars to boost opportunity for university study in communities where graduation rates were low.

And it was working.

Because of Labor's policies by 2016:

- **the number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds was up by 55 per cent;**
- **Indigenous student numbers had jumped by 89 per cent;**
- **enrolments by students with a disability had more than doubled; and**
- **enrolments by students from country areas had grown by 48 per cent.**

That is why a Shorten Labor Government will once again uncap student places so that more Australians from our regions and growing suburbs get the chance of a university education.

And we'll support those facing barriers with \$174 million in additional funding for equity and pathway programs in areas of Australia with low graduation rates.

Labor will always support more funding to help people in regional and remote Australia get the chance of a uni degree, but we don't support cuts to research to achieve it.

Cuts to the research support program cuts the funding to support the delivery of world class research, and funding to support collaboration between universities, industry and other research end users.

It will result in cuts to support for the indirect costs of research, such as libraries, laboratories, consumables, information technology and the salaries of support and technical staff. It will inevitably cost jobs.



## **ONE YEAR SINCE AUSTRALIANS VOTED YES – Pratt**

**Thursday marked one year on from the day that we found out a clear majority of Australians voted for fairness and equality in declaring their overwhelming support for marriage equality.**

The Liberal Government should never have put Australians in a position of having to debate and vote on the fundamental right of a consenting adult to marry the person they love – but they did.

Through the expensive, non-binding plebiscite hard-right conservatives were given a platform for their divisive and hateful language to spread mistruths about LGBTI people and their families.

In the past year over 5000 people have been married in same-sex weddings across the country. Many of these couples have been together for decades and have finally been afforded the opportunity to have their relationship recognised in law.

Children of Rainbow Families have been able to see their parents wed, comfortable in the knowledge that in the eyes of the law and a clear majority of their peers, their family is equal.

I want to pay tribute to the thousands of Australians who campaigned for the YES result. The campaign was difficult at times, but it was fuelled by a shared goal of equality for all Australians and powered by committed and energetic campaigners that knew exactly how important it was to all of the LGBTI community that the nation returned their ballots in favour of a YES result.

All Australians should feel proud today that together we made a positive change for our nation. Together we made clear statement that we want to see an Australia that is fair and equal.

## **TIME RUNNING OUT FOR GOVT TO DELIVER COSMETIC ANIMAL TESTING BAN – Zappia**

**The Morrison Government has not only failed to deliver on its 2016 election promise to ban the sale of cosmetic products tested on animals by 1 July 2017, which it subsequently extended to 1 July 2018, but with only two weeks of Parliamentary sittings left this year it seems the Government is not committed to the ban.**

Cosmetic testing on animals is cruel and unnecessary. Almost 40 countries have already banned cosmetic testing or are in the process of doing so.

Labor supports the ban and in 2016 introduced its own Ethical Cosmetics Bill that created an offence for testing cosmetics on animals within Australia or importing new cosmetics that have been tested on animals.

The Government's Bill has been put on hold after Labor and crossbench Senators proposed amendments that would close loopholes in the legislation that had been identified by animal welfare groups. The ban as drafted would only apply to ingredients solely used in cosmetics, whilst those with dual use would avoid the ban.

The Government's appalling negligence on animal cruelty was exposed in Philip Moss' scathing report about live sheep exports – and now continues with cosmetic testing.

Australians overwhelmingly oppose animal cruelty. The Morrison Government should support Labor and join with other countries in banning cosmetic testing on animals.

## **LABOR INQUIRY ON LGBTI STUDENT & STAFF DISCRIMINATION Plibersek/Dreyfus**

**Labor will hold the government accountable to its pledge to remove discrimination against LGBTI children in schools, with an inquiry to progress this issue in light of stalling by the Morrison Government.**

The issue of discrimination against LGBTI staff in religious schools will also be examined by the inquiry.



Before the Wentworth by-election, Scott Morrison pledged to remove discrimination against LGBTI students in the most recent two weeks of Parliament sitting. He failed, and then tried to blame Labor for that failure – despite Labor clearly saying we were happy to pass a repeal then and there.

Labor wants to see this bill passed before Parliament rises for the Christmas break – there is no reason why kids and their families should have to wait any longer for certainty.

Given the delay tactics used by the Liberals, we will work with the crossbench to refer the Government's proposed bill to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee with an interim report date of November 26, when both Houses of Parliament return. The committee will be given a longer window of time to examine the issue of discrimination against LGBTI staff in religious schools.

A short inquiry will allow the Government's bill on students to be thoroughly examined and scrutinised – the Government did no consultation, so we are forcing them to.

In particular, the committee will inquire into whether the government's proposal to expand exemptions for indirect discrimination are necessary in addition to existing protections for schools.

Labor is also committed to removing discrimination against LGBTI staff in religious schools.

We will progress this issue by examining how legislative change can best be made to remove discrimination whilst respecting the ability of religious schools to uphold the teachings of their faith.

Labor is clear – we support the removal of discrimination against LGBTI kids and staff in schools. This inquiry will mean the government have no more excuses not to get on with the job of ending discrimination once and for all.

## VETERANS

### **\$4.9 MILLION VETERANS SUPPORT CENTRE – Rishworth/Gosling/Snowdon/McCarthy**

**A Shorten Labor Government will invest in the health and wellbeing of our veterans in the Top End by establishing the Scott Palmer Service and Veterans' Support Hub.**

The Scott Palmer Service and Veterans' Support Hub will be a dedicated centre to provide support to our current and ex-serving defence personnel, first responders and their families.

Thousands of current and former Territory service people and their families must navigate a complex and often confusing range of services, often at a stressful time, with limited support.

With this \$4.9 million investment from Federal Labor, Territorians will finally have a centre that will provide services and support in health and wellbeing, access to counsellors and a place to go for assistance in accessing community, state, federal and cross-sector services.

The centre will also be a place where people can go to connect, meet and relax, with a children's play area, recreational rooms and indoor and outdoor reflection spaces.

Federal Labor will partner with the Northern Territory Government which has committed to providing land for this hub and will continue to work with local stakeholders to support our veterans, their families and first responders.

The hub will provide specialist support assisting former personnel deal with the impact of their deployment, separation and family integration, PTSD, stress-related issues and other health issues caused during their service.

It will also provide community outreach programs and initiatives to our veterans and their families.

The hub is named after Private Scott Travis Palmer, who tragically lost his life on operational service in Afghanistan on Monday, 21 June 2010.

Scott Palmer made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country and we thank his family for allowing us to attribute his name to this important centre. By naming the centre after him, we ensure that his story continues to be told and his sacrifice is never forgotten.

The Northern Territory is home to 8.2 per cent of Australia's permanent Defence Force with the total community nearing 12,000 members-including their families.

This hub will see a partnership between a future Shorten Labor Government, the Northern Territory Government and local ex-service organisations to deliver critical support services for our veterans in the Top End.

Thursday's announcement comes after thorough consultation with local veterans and ex-service organisations who have told Labor this hub is long overdue for the Northern Territory and will deliver tangible benefits to our veterans.

Labor has long said if there is more we can do for our veterans and their families we should be doing it.

## SOCIAL SERVICES

### **ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER BACKFLIP: FUNDING CHAOS HITS DEBT HELPLINE– McAllister**

**The Government has back flipped on another of its uncaring and illogical funding decisions.** [Reports](#) of the Government's backflip on National Debt Helpline funding have exposed its chaotic management of social services.

The National Debt Helpline provides free financial counselling to Australians who are facing financial hardship. This is a vital service particularly at a time where trust in financial institutions is so low.

In recent weeks, Social Services Minister Paul Fletcher made major last minute funding changes to the National Debt Helpline service.

Not-for-profit organisations that deliver services in NSW and Victoria were told their Commonwealth funding would be scrapped and allocated to another provider.

However the decision ignored the existing funding arrangements, which see the majority of funding for these services provided by the states.

In a submission to the Senate Inquiry into Credit and Financial Services targeted at Australians at risk of Financial Hardship the Consumer Action Law Centre and Financial Rights Legal Centre raised concerns that they would no longer be able to answer calls on the helpline number because it is owned by the federal government.

*“Should the 1800 007 007 number be directed to those new organisations, they will be receive in the vicinity of 20,000 – 30,000 calls each year in each state. The DSS funding will only allow staffing of around 2 to 2.5 full time equivalent positions. The existing NSW and Victorian services have between 8 and 10 full time equivalent positions. It will not be possible for the new agencies to meet the demand solely on the funding provided by DSS.”*

The Minister has only now intervened, weeks after telling organisations that their funding will be cut.

It is still unclear if the Government is restoring funding and how they intend to provide certainty to the sector.

**This is a problem of the Government’s own making.** This constant back flipping on funding decisions is no way to run a portfolio.

Either the Minister doesn’t know or he doesn’t care about the services delivered by his portfolio.

This is the second time in a week that Mr Fletcher has bungled a decision by making significant changes to funding for services at short notice, just before Christmas.

Two months’ notice to service providers of changes to their funding is completely unacceptable.

After four ministers in five years, it is time for this Government to take social services more seriously.

Labor is calling on the Government to resolve the continued funding chaos inside the social services portfolio.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### LABOR URGES END TO HOSTILITIES IN YEMEN – Wong

Labor has called for a cessation of hostilities in Yemen, and for all sides in the Yemen conflict to participate in UN-led peace talks by the end of the year. Labor also calls on the Saudi-led coalition to take all measures possible to reduce civilian casualties and ensure access to affected areas for the delivery of humanitarian and essential supplies to the civilian population.



The United Nations describes Yemen as the world’s worst humanitarian crisis, with more than 22 million people – three-quarters of the population – in need of humanitarian aid and protection.

UNICEF says a child dies every 10 minutes in Yemen from diseases that could easily be prevented, and half of Yemeni children are chronically malnourished.

We are deeply concerned that a full-scale assault on the Port of Hodeidah could worsen this humanitarian disaster, with eighty per cent of Yemen’s food imports and relief supplies flowing through the port.

Labor has given notice of a motion in the Senate strongly supporting the current efforts by the United Kingdom’s Foreign Secretary to build support among international and regional partners for new action in the UN Security Council to bolster the UN-led peace process.

The motion also endorses the US Administration’s decision to no longer take part in inflight refuelling operations for Saudi-led coalition aircraft involved in the fighting.

Labor urges the Australian Government to support United Nations’ efforts to find a political solution to the conflict in Yemen, and assure itself that any Australian military cooperation in the region, including defence equipment sales, does not inadvertently contribute to the suffering of the Yemeni civilian population.

## ENERGY POLICY

### DIVESTMENT POWERS THOUGHT BUBBLE A FAIR DINKUM DEBACLE – Bowen/Mark Butler

**It’s just another day in paradise when Scott Morrison’s latest energy policy thought bubble on divestment powers – a policy not supported by the competition regulator - gives rise to significant constitutional questions and concerns.**

It’s completely unsurprising to see legal and constitutional questions being asked about Scott Morrison’s ministerial divestment powers given it is policy on the run without any sort of report or evidence base.

Undermining investor confidence with this sort of extreme intervention is more likely to put upward pressure on energy prices than cut them.

Significant stakeholders are calling the Liberal Party out for this extreme policy intervention – the question is will the Liberal Party backbench forget its free market heritage and run dead on this concerning policy.

The Australia Energy Council has submitted to the Government’s consultation process that it has *“concerns about the framing and constitutionality of the Treasurer’s remedies”* and that the divestiture power is an *“extraordinary and invasive power”*.

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia has called on the Liberal Party to *“pause consideration”* on its latest energy policy, while stating that the Government’s approach was *“exacerbating the challenges in attracting investment into new electricity generators”*.

The Chair of the ACCC Rod Sims, the competition regulator, said a few weeks ago he first read about Scott Morrison’s divestiture powers thought bubble in the newspaper.

The Liberal Party is more interested in thought bubbles than landing sensible, bipartisan energy policy – and Australian households and businesses are the ones paying for it.

## RENEWABLES INDUSTRY SLAM LIBERALS COAL PLAN – Mark Butler

Scott Morrison and his inept Liberals will drive power prices further up, freeze new energy investment, and are a recipe for wasting taxpayers' money on uninvestable expensive new coal.

That's the conclusion of the first leaked submissions on the Morrison's Government's plan to bastardise an ACCC recommendation in order to underwrite new coal-fired power stations with taxpayers' funds.

The Clean Energy Council (CEC) has described Morrison's coal plan as "clearly no longer technology-neutral and sharply contrasts with the rationale behind the ACCC's recommendation of supporting sustainable generation projects in order to improve competition", while Meridian Energy have stated the Morrison coal plan is putting "a hiatus on any form of investment."

In a striking vote of no confidence in the Morrison government, the CEC also adds, "as a minimum, any progress on a government program should occur after the upcoming federal election".

This vote of no confidence has been backed by Infrastructure Partners Australia, which also urged the Government to "pause consideration" of their coal plan, while pointing out ongoing policy uncertainty was "exacerbating the challenges in attracting investment into new electricity generators."

Meanwhile the New South Wales Liberal Government have again tried to distance themselves from the failed Morrison Government with Don Harwin, NSW Energy Minister, again committing their state to net zero emissions by 2050 and slamming the Federal Liberals energy policy chaos saying:

*"The NSW government did not rule out supporting the Turnbull government when they were talking about an emissions intensity scheme, the NSW government did not rule out supporting the Turnbull government when they were looking at the Clean Energy Target,*

*"We made it quite clear that we did support the integration of climate and energy policy and we were happy for the NEG to go up and we were ready to sign up to it before Malcolm Turnbull withdrew it."*

The out of touch Liberals new coal plan has no support and will just exacerbate their energy crisis. And Australian households and businesses will pick up the bill with their power costs continuing to go up, and up, and up.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### SKY MUSTER WHOLESALE CHANGES LONG OVERDUE – Rowland/Jones

After pushing for improvements in data allowance for Australians living in regional and rural parts of the country, Labor welcomes NBN Co's long-awaited announcement regarding Sky Muster.

This new NBN satellite product is also the result of strong advocacy by regional groups like the [Regional, Rural & Remote Communications Coalition](#) that have been working for years to draw government attention to the frustrations of broadband users.

The new 'Sky Muster Plus' offering from NBNCo will allow users in rural and regional Australia to access essential services such as email and internet banking without having the usage count against their monthly allowance.

Previously, small businesses and households operating in regional and remote areas who have to use the Sky Muster system have had their data use rationed.

Monday's announcement goes some way towards addressing the limitations of the "Fair Use" policy, that restricted usage of customers who had no other option but to access internet through satellite.

While today's announcement is welcomed, it is regrettable that more focus is not given to improving regional broadband by the Morrison Government. More needs to be done to assist small businesses which cannot afford interruptions to service.

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## CURRENT SENATE COMMITTEE INQUIRIES (As of 16/11/18)

### Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

### Community Affairs References Committee

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

### Economics References Committee

- [Credit and financial services targeted at Australians at risk of financial hardship](#)
- [Financial and tax practices of for-profit aged care providers](#)
- [Regional Inequality in Australia](#)
- [Consumer protection in the banking, insurance and financial sector](#)
- [Non-conforming building products](#)

### Economics Legislation Committee

- [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](#)



- [Financial and tax practices of for-profit aged care providers](#)
- [Regional Inequality in Australia](#)
- [Consumer protection in the banking, insurance and financial sector](#)
- [Non-conforming building products](#)

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

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

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

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

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

- **New** [Copyright Amendment \(Online Infringement\) 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](#)
- [Gaming micro-transactions for chance-based items](#)
- [Australia's faunal extinction crisis](#)
- [Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program](#)
- [Australian content on broadcast, radio and streaming services](#)
- [Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [Freedom of Information Legislation Amendment \(Improving Access and Transparency\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia 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](#)
- [Judiciary Amendment \(Commonwealth Model Litigant Obligations\) Bill 2017](#)

#### **Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee**

- **New** [Legislative exemptions that allow faith-based educational institutions to discriminate against students, teachers and staff](#)
- [The effectiveness of the current temporary skilled visa system in targeting genuine skills shortages](#)
- [The practice of dowry and the incidence of dowry abuse in Australia](#)

#### **Red Tape Committee**

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

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

- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)

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

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

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

- [Obesity Epidemic in Australia](#)

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

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

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

- [Electric Vehicles](#)

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

- [Stillbirth Research and Education](#)

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

- [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](#)