



Senator Claire Moore

WEEKLY UPDATE: 22nd March, 2019

Phone: (07) 3252 7101; email: senator.moore@aph.gov.au;
Web: www.clairemoore.net; Twitter: www.twitter.com/SenClaireMoore;
www.facebook.com/SenatorClaireMoore;

THIS WEEK:



SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore
www.clairemoore.net



CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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

Please contact us by [return email](#) or call on 07 3252 710.

If you no longer wish to receive the weekly update and want to be removed from the mailing list just let us know.

Postal: **PO Box 907 Fortitude Valley Post Shop Fortitude Valley QLD 400**

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

WHAT'S BEING SAID ...



CHRISTCHURCH - SHORTEN – PERTH

"We in Australia do not want or expect to be judged by the actions of a single deranged Australian. We don't think our country should be judged by the standards of that man. But perhaps there's a lesson also here for us, that when individuals of other faiths act, maybe we shouldn't be so quick to judge the faith and rather, recognise it's an actions of an individual."

CHRISTCHURCH - KENEALLY – CHANNEL 7 NEWS

"Jacinda Ardern has been marvellous throughout this whole tragedy, and one of the challenges of a leader in this time is to offer reassurance, empathy, sympathy, but also courage, and determination, and fortitude that gives the nation confidence that the person in charge has really got things under control."

CHRISTCHURCH - SHORTEN – PERTH

"We've got to form a united front against the hate merchants, the extremists, the political parties who seek to divide this country, who seek to enable majorities to pick on minorities. This is not the Australian way."

SOCIAL MEDIA - KENEALLY – CHANNEL 7 NEWS

"I think we need to, as both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition have outlined today, start to crack down on social media platforms. That's where this is happening. That is where these – this attack was live streamed."

SOCIAL MEDIA-- SHORTEN – PERTH

"For too long people have been too quiet on this and so I say again today - this is a test of Mr Morrison's leadership."

Just like we need to actually shut the door on the extremists, on those that would divide our society, we now have to have the overdue conversation about the massive power that the technology leviathans exert in Australia."

SOCIAL MEDIA & FREEDOM OF SPEECH- DREYFUS – ABC RN DRIVE

"Words matter, words hurt, and words can lead to violence which is why we draw lines. So I get a bit exasperated when I hear people say that because of free speech notions we have a right to say whatever we like. The answer to them is no we don't – society already draws lines and we need to maintain those lines."

SOCIAL MEDIA-- SHORTEN – PERTH

"Do you really think that these social media giants who they know what your kids ate for breakfast, they know where you're booking your next holiday, they know what your favourite you know, shopping lists are. Do you really think they can't do more to stop the digital hitmen and the trolls of the underbelly of social media from carrying out their business."



ANNING AKA MR.19 - DREYFUS – ABC RN DRIVE

"Senator Anning should be censured for the disgraceful comments that he made after the Christchurch attack. Whether or not he can be suspended is a different question. It seems at the moment that neither the Parliamentary Privileges Act nor the rules of the Senate, the standing orders, allow that to happen."

ANNING AKA MR.19- PLIBERSEK – ABC RADIO DRIVE

"I really think that the very best punishment for Senator Anning is for the voters of Queensland to vote him out at the next election. I think, you know, he got 19 votes last time he stood for the Senate. I hope he gets no more than 19 this time."

DOG WHISTLING - TIM WATTS (GELLIBRAND) ABC RADIO MELBOURNE

"All last week the Liberal Party was running paid advertisements on Facebook talking about how under a Shorten Labor Government we would be paying for more refugees by taxing retirees. That's wrong. It's an outrageous false ad. When we are talking about us and them politics, I know the Member for La Trobe has been running ads about African gangs."

DIVISIVE MORRISON? - PLIBERSEK – ABC RADIO DRIVE

"Greg Hunt is the only one who seems to be prepared to back him in and Greg Hunt wasn't actually at the meeting - so I think it says a lot about Greg Hunt that he's

prepared to give the Prime Minister an alibi for a meeting that he wasn't actually at."

RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN- SHORTEN – PERTH

"I think the remarks of the Turkish President were foolish and they were offensive. Like many Australians, I have relatives who fought in the First World War and some of whom were at Gallipoli. In 2015, I attended the 100 year centenary. Australians respect very much their relationship with Turkey."

RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN - PLIBERSEK – ABC RADIO DRIVE

"This is a very special relationship, over a century after the First World War, and I wouldn't want anything to imperil the opportunity of other Australians to go to Gallipoli and to see what has become a sacred place, I guess, for Australians."

PREFERENCES - BURKE – PERTH

"Even though that Scott Morrison has been claiming that his Party won't do a deal with One Nation, Pauline Hanson revealed that local candidates have been talking to her about preferences for up to two years. Scott Morrison can't have it both ways."

PREFERENCES - KENEALLY – CHANNEL 7 NEWS

"It's one thing to say you're not going to do a deal; it's another thing to say entirely, "We will always preference One Nation and other far-right, extremist, racist parties last". The Labor Party makes that clear. We will always preference One Nation and extreme, right-wing racist parties last."

PREFERENCES - PLIBERSEK – ABC RADIO DRIVE

"I've got no particular affection for them but to compare the Greens with One Nation or Fraser Anning, I think is completely misguided".

PREFERENCES - BURKE – PERTH

"One Nation needs to be last on every How to Vote. Labor has done this every single time."

MORRISON - BOWEN –SYDNEY

"This is a desperate Prime Minister who will cling to any life raft as he flails around with his desperate shrill scare campaigns."

MORRISON MISREPRESENTS ADVICE - BOWEN –SYDNEY

"Now this is a Prime Minister with form here. He attached himself when he was Treasurer he endorsed the thoroughly discredited BIS Shrapnel report into Labor's reforms which had nothing to do with Labor's reforms, really was thoroughly discredited within 24 hours. But what he hasn't attached himself to is the modelling and analysis of the Australian Treasury. He sat on it. He wouldn't release it. It was released under Freedom of Information. It said the impact of Labor's reforms will be modest. He didn't want to hear that so he didn't share it with the Australian people."

MORRISON MISREPRESENTS ADVICE - BOWEN –SYDNEY

"When Government Ministers including the Treasurer claimed the Treasury had advised that Labor's negative gearing reforms will put downward pressure on housing prices in a falling market they [Treasury] said: 'That's not what we said'."

MORRISON GOVT -- BOWEN –SYDNEY

"They have no policy agenda for the country. They have no vision. They have no economic narrative, no economic plan to grow the economy, grow wages, get investment going, get productivity growth up. They've got nothing. We've got three Treasurers, three Prime Ministers in five and a half years."

MIGRANT INTAKE - SHORTEN – PERTH

"I mean this is smoke and mirrors. 160,000 this year, do you know what it was last year? 162,000 - So wow, this government's announced a cut of 1 per cent, you know hold the presses, it's staggering. "

MIGRANT INTAKE - SHORTEN – PERTH

"I mean the problem in Australia is that the infrastructure hasn't kept pace with the population. There have been too many cuts to hospitals, too many cuts to schools, not enough investment in rail, not enough investment in roads, not enough investment in aged care. So what we're doing is we're making up for six years of neglect, of Coalition negligence."

MIGRANT INTAKE - SHORTEN – PERTH

"The real test, the substantial test is are you investing in the nation's infrastructure to keep up with population growth, and the Morrison Government has substantially failed that fundamental test."

457 VISAS-- SHORTEN – PERTH

"That's 1.6 million, going up. So what the government is doing is it's having a look at one small number and making a 1 per cent change to that, and ignoring the fact that we've got a massively increasing number of temporary work visas."

LOW WAGES - SHORTEN – PERTH

"I reject the fairy tale spun by the vested interests of big business which says that reasonable wage rises cause economic dislocation. You know, there was an ad in the newspapers yesterday, I don't know if you saw it in the Financial Review, I don't know if you got to see it. It was 124 economists - 124 professors and doctors of economics who said we need to get wages moving in this country. The Reserve Bank Governor - and I don't think you can call him a shop steward of the MUA, he has said that we need to move on wages. Wage stagnation is without a doubt one of the principal economic problems in this country."

NEGATIVE GEARING REFORM CRITICISM - SHORTEN – PERTH

"We've got a list of experts as long as your arm backing us in, from the IMF to the Treasury, Joe Hockey, perhaps not in terms of being an expert but he certainly said we should look at this issue, think tanks like the McKell Institute and the Grattan Institute. What our proposals do is that we want to make it fairer for first home buyers."

QUEENSLAND HEALTH - KING/ZAC BEERS - GLADSTONE

"We know that under the Morrison government that there has been over \$6 million cut out of the central Queensland hospital services. \$160 million across the entire state all together and we know that that means that emergency departments, elective surgery services to communities like this in Gladstone are under pressure because of these cuts. Only Labor and only Zac Beers will invest in health services in Gladstone."

TAYLA HARRIS TROLLS - PLIBERSEK – ABC RADIO DRIVE

"So it is very important that we stand up to call out this revolting sort of trolling of a beautiful, strong, talented sportswoman like this."

I really do think as a society we are losing the battle with some of the really malign influences that live in the internet."



KIWI CARTOON



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"If Scott Morrison is unwilling by the end of today to make clear that they will put One Nation last then I'm not sure what his words of unity of the last few days actually mean." – Tony Burke

"The mugging, smirking BBQer-in-Chief is a poor fit for that role anyway, but his own words count against him. He now denies, and his office threatens litigation over, an eight-year-old report on a proposal to exploit Islamophobia. But does he deny attacking Labor for flying detained asylum seekers to the funeral of relatives killed in the December 2010 Christmas

Island shipwreck? Does he deny saying 'any other Australian who would have wanted to go to the funeral of someone close to them, they would have paid for themselves to get on a plane and go there'? Even his own colleagues chipped him about that." – Bernard Keane (Crikey)

"What we want is for Senator Anning to resign from the Senate and put everyone out of their misery." – Mark Dreyfus

**"Genocide does not begin with killing. It begins with words." –
Julie Nathan (Research Director at the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ))**

"We cannot talk about an inclusive society on one hand and look to divide it with the other. -Jihad Dib (Labor Member for Lakemba in Sydney and NSW Opposition spokesman for Education and son of a Lebanese migrant.)

**"I want this bloke out of Australian politics as soon as possible. I want him humiliated and run out of parliament on a rail." –
Tim Watts (Labor Gellibrand on MR.19)**

**"We have an economically right-wing government dissolving before our very eyes like an Aspirin in a glass of water. " –
Wayne Swan**

**"This age of extreme inequality has created an age of extreme politics. A dodgy property developer in the White House." –
Wayne Swan**

HYPOCRITE OF THE WEEK ... there have been a few.

"And all around, we see more of this dangerous tribalism, with its xenophobia, touch-one-touch-all mentality and savage eye-for-an-eye brutality." – Andrew Bolt (Attacking 'left wingers' for calling out divisive racists such as ... Andrew.)

CHRISTCHURCH MOSQUE TERRORIST ATTACK – Shorten/Wong (15/3/19)

Labor, together with all Australians, condemns the act of terrorism that has brought such death and devastation to the city of Christchurch and to the people of New Zealand.

Australia and New Zealand are family and we grieve with our brothers and sisters today. We offer our condolences, our sympathy and solidarity to all who have lost someone they love and to everyone still in the grip of fear and pain. We also offer our thanks to the first responders for their bravery, calm and compassion.

This was an evil, hate-filled and cowardly attack on innocent worshippers of the Muslim faith, humbly and peacefully following the tenets of their religion, in their place of worship. These were people at prayer, at their most humble and vulnerable, they did not stand a chance. The Islamic community in New Zealand will carry a terrible burden of grief today and we know their pain will be shared by Australian Muslims. We stand with them, knowing that terrorism has no regard for any faith.

An attack on any religion is an attack on all religions, it is an assault on our common humanity. We all share a responsibility to unite, condemn and defeat such an attack on our values and our way of life.

We are, tragically, familiar with Australians being among the victims of terrorism overseas. Today we must confront the horrifying reality that an Australian was among the perpetrators. Both his extreme right-wing ideology, found in hate-speech groups, and his acts of evil do not represent Australia or our values.

Attacks such as this are designed to spread fear and sow division. So too is the footage the terrorists have sought to circulate online. We echo the words of the New Zealand police: do not share this footage, do not watch it. Do not do anything to normalise or validate this inhuman act of evil.

All Australians stand with New Zealand and we stand ready to provide any and all the support they may require in the coming days and weeks. They are all in our hearts today.

HATE – David Margan

When I arrived home from work last Friday I followed a fairly usual routine – get into the sarong, make a long vodka and tonic, take a seat on the balcony and turn on the transistor to ABC 'PM'.

It was only then I heard the unfolding horror of the Christchurch massacre .

I couldn't believe it and began, no doubt like many there, to try and wish the reverse of time that this wasn't happening that somehow we could turn back the clock.

Tears ran down my face, it couldn't be undone.

Since then, when I heard that babies had been shot, that 50 were dead, the tales of survival, of courage, the stoicism, character and dignity of survivors of family and loved ones, the ambulance officer who, through his own tears, described the river of blood, of lifting bodies over those of others or the resonating sounds of schoolboys passionately chanting a Haka of support, then too the tears came.

Rebekah Holt a journalist who was in Christchurch at the time wrote this in Crikey;

"There was our Uber driver. He picked up a woman from the hospital whose husband and son had been shot. She had spent all night beside them. She was alone, so he gave her his business card and told her to call if she needs anything at all. He's still terribly worried about her. We sit with him for another five minutes outside our accommodation because he seems upset."

Everywhere, selfless, dignity and courage.

Then came the thoroughly insensitive and atrocious remarks of someone I no longer will name, he also doesn't deserve one.

Let's call him Mr 19, that's for the only votes that accidentally got him elected to the Senate.

As Kiwis of all faith showed solidarity and compassion two white Australian males took our nation to a new and embarrassing low, one with a gun and one with his mouth.

All those who engaged in spin, fear mongering, calculated division, fascist and racist opinion sometimes masquerading as fact are now running for cover or covered in egg.

Watching their discomfort as the ethical light finds them in their thoughtless calculating lairs has been an extreme pleasure.

Their avoidance of moral responsibility and their consequent hypocrisy has not.

Holt also wrote this as, in the midst of this tragedy Prime Minister Morrison announced cuts to Australia's immigration intake;

"The cognitive dissonance between Arden's steely and controlled compassion towards the victims — some of whom were refugees and recent immigrants — and Morrison's continual tsunami of fear-mongering on asylum seekers and refugees has rendered me almost speechless. Almost."

It's so sad that such a grotesque tragedy has to happen for us to somewhat regain our collective moral compass and to make painfully clear the true character and pure, cowardly nastiness of the haters and their snide fellow travellers who sought to sow division for their electoral benefit.

There is a quick and easy option and its coming soon – vote the grubs out!

They are not us, nor ever will be.



EXTREMIST VIEWS MUST BE CALLED TO ACCOUNT AND SHUT DOWN

Ed Husic

Like many others, my mind can't move from last Friday's terrible events in Christchurch.

The individual stories are too hard to release from memory's grip.

Like Hosne Ahmed who shielded her wheelchair bound husband Farid from bullets. He lived, she perished. Or three-year-old Muczad Ibrahim, a child made the target of a truly heinous act.



Debate this week has focused on what speech should receive the benefit of being classed as "free speech". Can we also respect another freedom: the freedom to go about your daily life without fear and humiliation?

Can a person visit a place of worship to pray in peace? Can a woman wearing a hijab walk down a street without having to wipe someone else's spit from her clothes? Or can people be free of being used to score political points or ratings for a media outlet?

Our responses now are critical - not just thinking about the future, but taking the time to look over our shoulder at how we've acted.

We don't need blame shifting just honest accountability.

Social media giants should be more accountable for the content on their platforms. As should traditional media

outlets that allow extremist views to be aired for ratings as opposed to free speech.

One Nation has a ready platform to chat with David Koch on Channel Seven's Sunrise program.

Channel Nine's Sonia Kruger called on-air for a ban on Muslim immigration - and thrives with little apparent regret.

Sky News presenter Adam Giles now calls for social media content crackdown but hosted known extremists on his own show.

Don't quarantine blame for all hate speech and provocative gestures to a rump of alt-right extremists. Public figures should be just as accountable for the content that is shaped by their deeds and words, because on either new or traditional media platforms someone will generate content shaped in part by prevailing political environments.

On the eve of a tough election fight in his own seat, former Prime Minister Tony Abbott seeks forgiveness for saying "Islamophobia never killed anyone". A statement untrue then as it is today.

As NSW Liberal party director Scott Morrison saw religion weaponised for campaign purposes but failed to condemn it at the time or immediately thereafter.

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

I was a federal candidate in that 2004 campaign and saw first-hand my own ads being doctored to claim I was advocating for a "better deal" for Islam.

Would calling out such tactics then have helped avoid a repeat act in the seat of Lindsay during the 2007 election, where smear sheets targeting religion were used?

Would it have made the Liberal Party think twice about endorsing a candidate with known anti-Islamic views to run against me in the seat of Chifley in 2010

And given all this, why is the Liberal Party currently running a social media campaign claiming Labor wants to take money off retirees to give to refugees?

Is such dishonesty and divisiveness the type Scott Morrison recently spoke out against? Leadership must be exercised when it can make a difference, not as an afterthought.

Want proof? Cast a look at the scarfed head of New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, offering comfort and support minus bravado and bluster.

Back home we have seen a Coalition announcement of public funds to make places of worship more secure, a good thing.

Another good investment would be in meaningful efforts to counter violent extremism - programs previously announced with government fanfare but have disappeared from view.

Instead of walling people in let's do what we can to let them live in an environment that eschews hate and promotes cohesion.

This opinion piece was featured in the [Sydney Morning Herald](#) on 21 March, 2019

SENATE CENSURE MOTION

SENATOR THE HON. MATHIAS CORMANN Minister for Finance Leader of the Government in the Senate
SENATOR THE HON. PENNY WONG Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs Leader of the Opposition in the Senate

When the Senate returns in April we will jointly move the following motion:

That the Senate:

(a) notes:

- i. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes...freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching practice, worship and observance",
- ii. religious persecution knows no geographic or sectarian boundaries and it afflicts religious believers of virtually every faith, on every continent,
- iii. the strong statements made across the nation, led by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, that violence such as that witnessed in Christchurch is an affront on our common humanity,
- iv. in the face of attacks designed to sow division, our responses must bring us together, recognising an attack on any religion is an attack on all religions and that we all share a responsibility to unite, condemn and defeat such an attack on our common values and way of life; and

(b) calls on all Australians to stand against hate and to publicly, and always, condemn actions and comments designed to incite fear and distrust

(c) endorses the statement of the Imam Hasan Centre following the attacks in Christchurch that: "It is times like this that we lose hope and doubt humanity, when people of faith come under attack in such a way, it shows us how low humanity can fall. However, it never ceases to amaze how far humanity can rise after such despicable events"

(d) censures Senator Anning for his inflammatory and divisive comments seeking to attribute blame to victims of a horrific crime and to vilify people on the basis of religion, which do not reflect the opinions of the Australian Senate or the Australian people.

GLIMPSES

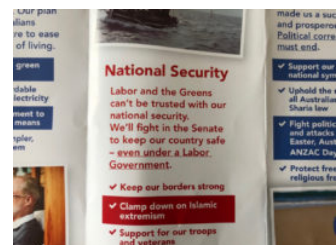
DID YOU KNOW

That the last time that a Federal MP was kicked out of the Federal Parliament for good was happened in 1910 when a Labor member who was run out of parliament. The laws have changed now, we can't do that in the same way but that Labor member was kicked out over expressing a view about British soldiers shooting into Irish civil war people.

Until 1987 the Parliament had the power to expel a member from Parliament. However, the only occasion when this power was used was on 11 November 1920 when Hugh Mahon (ALP, Kalgoorlie) was expelled for 'seditious and disloyal utterances' made outside the House at a public meeting in Melbourne. His speech criticized British policy in Ireland. He was judged 'guilty of conduct unfitting him to remain a member'

Of the 1,093 members who have served in the House of Representatives from 1901 to the end of the 43rd Parliament in August 2013, 300 (27.4%) have been named and/or suspended or 'sin binned' for disorderly behaviour in the Chamber.

MORE NASTY RIGHT



Australian Conservatives leader Senator Cory Bernardi has defended distributing a flyer in the Victorian seat of Kooyong calling for a crackdown on "Islamic extremism", just days after the New Zealand mosque massacre.

The flyer has been delivered to letterboxes in the safe Liberal seat in Melbourne this week.

A spokesperson for Senator Bernardi confirmed to The New Daily the flyer was printed long before the Friday attacks, but that he has no plans to withdraw it.

The handout also states "Labor and the Greens can't be trusted with our national security" – and pledges that the Australian Conservatives will "clamp down on Islamic extremism".



ARE YOU KIDDING ME!

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton has indicated no far-right groups in Australia currently meet the criteria of a listed terrorist organisation, amid calls for national security agencies to review whether to include the groups in the official register.

Bill Shorten called yesterday for a national register of hate crimes to more effectively map the problem in Australia. "In Australia, where we've got eight police agencies, but we don't have a common definition of what a hate crime is, and we don't record it nationally," the Opposition Leader said.

DUD DUTTON – The New Daily

Dutton claimed the Greens were "just as bad" as [Senator Fraser Anning, who blamed Muslim immigration for the white supremacist's alleged killings](#).

Former race discrimination commissioner Tim Soutphommasane, now a Professor at University of Sydney, said politicians and news media have a role to play in what is acceptable. said Mr Dutton was "creating a false equivalence between racism and anti-racism".

"It should be very simple for our political leaders: They should condemn and reject white supremacism and far-right extremism. They should not be creating excuses for political violence and hate. The problem is racism, not anti-racism."

Julie Nathan, research director at the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) said there were 366 incidents of anti-Semitism recorded in Australia in 2018, an increase of 59 per cent. "Genocide does not begin with killing. It begins with words," ECAJ said in response to Friday's attacks. "It begins with words. Political, community, religious and civil society leaders all have a duty to lead by example, by setting the right tone of discourse from the top."

BORDER PROTECTION – John Menadue

As the government's own data shows, non-boat arrivals have risen from 3,988 in 2007-08 to 27,931 in 2017-18. Yet the media and politicians show disinterest in an honest and informed debate about protecting our borders. Peter Dutton is not held accountable for his failure to protect our borders. Instead of telling us the facts on asylum seekers coming to Australia in record numbers by air, our mainstream media including the ABC allows Dutton to continue uncontested his appalling politicisation of the issue." – John Menadue
AO is an Australian businessman and public commentator, and formerly a senior public servant and diplomat. He is the founding chair and board member of the Centre for Policy Development. You can follow John Menadue on Twitter [@JohnMenadue](#). This excerpt is from an article that was originally [published](#) on [Pearls and Irritations](#) and is republished with permission.

THE MORAL GYMNAST – Bernard Keane (Crikey)

Christchurch has placed Prime Minister on the horns of a dilemma how to get the preferences of the One Nation haters without upsetting everyone but One Nation.



Morrison, who is now in [furious denial](#) about his [long history](#) of exploiting racism and insists he's now a tribune of peace on earth and goodwill to all men (and women if any manage to get elected). And you can't pose as an opponent of tribalism, extremism and racism while rewarding at the ballot box a party that is definitionally tribalist, extremist and racist. Indeed it's quite possible Morrison dearly wants his branches to put One Nation last, if only to bolster his credentials as a latter day anti-racist. But many of his Queensland colleagues are desperate for preferences from One Nation, which is still polling around 10% in that state, and have been telling journalists they want to see Hanson and her racists preferred by the LNP in return — which is exactly what the LNP did in the 2017 Queensland state

election in nearly every seat, and in the Longman by-election last year, when the LNP put Labor and the Greens below One Nation.

One LNP MP who [told](#) The New Daily: "We take Pauline Hanson's vote every day in the Senate. Five times a day. Ministers negotiate with her. They beg for her support ... What's she's done that's so bad?"

Yesterday, Morrison tried a third approach — that Labor had done deals with One Nation. "The Labor Party did a preference deal with One Nation that saw people like the Member for Dobell elected into the parliament," he told the ABC. This was a lie, one Labor immediately briefed the Press Gallery on, and Morrison was [rapidly fact-checked](#).

He'll thus enter an election campaign persistently dogged by the question of why his party is telling voters to support racists over mainstream parties, especially in Queensland. And don't think voters in Brisbane and Sydney and Melbourne and Adelaide and Perth won't notice. Morrison can fudge and dodge and even lie, but he better get used to being asked about Hanson and the vile creatures that ride on her coattails.

TWO VERSIONS OF THE SAME EVENT- TWICE - David Margan



Having just argued that he only raised voters' potential anti-Muslim sentiments at a now notorious 2010 cabinet meeting in order to "lower" them and not inflame them he now has a different view about the substance of another meeting.

Scott Morrison told ABC News Breakfast he was welcomed at Lakemba Mosque on Saturday with "warm embraces", but failed to mention that Islamic leaders also criticised him and attributed the terror attack to years of Islamophobia.

For a devout Christian poor old Scott does seem to be constantly wrestling with the truth. The Grand Mufti, Dr Ibrahim Mohammed, also told Mr Morrison the Christchurch tragedy had been building up for years because of ongoing Islamophobia.

"The tragedy in New Zealand yesterday - it wasn't something overnight, it's been something that's been a build-up over the last few years because of the incitement of hatred, bigotry, and discrimination against groups like the Islamic community. We need to look into the causation of what makes such a tragedy that took place yesterday and it all comes down to the hate speech... that takes place."

The group raised several concerns, grievances with the position that senior members of government have taken on immigration

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS?

One of Australia's most prominent far-right extremists has escaped prosecution even though he left explicit, violent and repeated threats on the message bank of a Melbourne freelance journalist.

Mr Sykes warned Mr McMahon: "Pity you weren't home, but at least we know where you live so, we'll be saying 'G'day'." The man who left the phone threats was Nathan Sykes, a lieutenant of Australia's most prominent white supremacist, Jim Saleam.



Mr Saleam founded the right-wing group National Action, and was previously jailed for property offences; fraud and planning the attempted murder of anti-apartheid activist and African National Congress diplomat Eddie Funde.

But despite receiving complaints about the threats, NSW Police failed to interview Mr Sykes or lay charges, saying there was not enough evidence. **[Not enough evidence!!! Try this; Ed]** In another recording from March 2018 obtained by The Age, Mr Sykes threatens to “stamp your [journalist Luke McMahon’s] f---ing teeth into the sidewalk” and send associates to Mr McMahon’s house. “I’m going to torture you to an absolute delight little Lukey Luke. Absolute delight. And I have people looking at you right now staring at you from across the f---ing street from where you live, enjoy this motherf---er,” Mr Sykes is recorded saying. “You’re dead, and baby, I’m catching up with you.”

Mr Saleam and Mr Sykes are members of the far-right Australia First party. In a self-published 2012 novel, Mr Sykes wrote: “If I didn’t have trolling, I’m sure I’d be crouched on a rooftop with a sniper’s rifle popping rounds into the ant-like, sheepish f#@kers on the street below.”

XENOPHOBIA -MICHAEL BRADLEY Managing partner at Marque Lawyers (Crikey)

The recrudescence of Australian xenophobia is usually dated back to the “Tampa” election of 2001, or Pauline Hanson’s entry into Parliament and racist attack on “Asians” in 1996; but it really started in 1988 when John Howard, then opposition leader, called for a reduction in the rate of Asian immigration and launched a divisive migration policy called “One Australia”.

Howard didn’t invent xenophobia; it had only a brief 20-year respite after the dismantling of the White Australia policy.

The conventions of what it is not OK to say have fallen like dominoes over the past 30 years. The Murdoch press and TV platforms, followed by the other commercial networks, have been enthusiastic participants in the normalisation of racism. Even the ABC will interview a white supremacist like Steve Bannon and then express bewilderment at the fallout.

The Coalition parties have dabbled, dog-whistled and occasionally stepped straight into race-baiting (hello, Peter Dutton).

As the laying of the foundations for race-based hate has been going on, the white supremacists have been constantly emboldened. They were always there, in the darkest recesses of our society. We used to keep them in the shadows. Now they’re on Sky, Sunrise and the Senate. We now know with 100% certainty that far and away the gravest threat to our safety is right-wing extremism. The fascists in our midst are home-grown and lethal.

The critical difference between fascism and any other form of violent extremism (including Islamic terrorism) is that it seeks to subvert peaceful society from within, because its foundation is a warped belief that it is a force for preservation, not destruction. ISIS attacks from without; white supremacists believe that they are fighting to save “Western culture” from external threats to an imagined status quo. It’s delusional and ridiculous nonsense. But it is only at the far end of a spectrum, at the other end of which lies Howard’s and Abbott’s nostalgia for a white Christian Australia that never was.

Because they are in the tent, fascists are the most dangerous threat a society can possess; far greater than that presented by the other, nihilistic cults of terror.

History is clear: fascism thrives on a passive response. It loves the attention and credibility which mainstream platforming provides it; it co-opts the tools of civil society, then perverts and disposes of them.

Whether it’s OK to punch a Nazi is not the point. Vigilantism isn’t the answer to fascism; they love that shit. We won’t beat them with street marches, eggs or ironic memes. The only answer is the unique power of the state to impose order, if necessary with violence.

The graffiti response must be applied to racist hate speech and the incitement of violence. We have hate speech laws (NSW introduced the gold standard in 2018, making it a serious crime to publicly threaten or incite violence on the basis of race or religion); they need more beefing up, but they also need to be enforced.

The calls from politicians and mainstream media for more responsibility from social media giants like Facebook aren’t wrong. They do need to step up and exercise their power to help shut down the awfulness. They need to feel the weight of state power as well, with laws forcing them to do the right thing. The same applies to the Telcos.

The law must be wielded, to combat the white supremacist threat. All arms of government power must be engaged to keep these fringe-dwellers down where they belong, in their fetid holes, starved of oxygen, legitimacy and an audience. The response to a racist murderer must be to erase him; his manifesto; his video. Bury him in a dark prison cell. Let his face never be seen, his voice never heard.

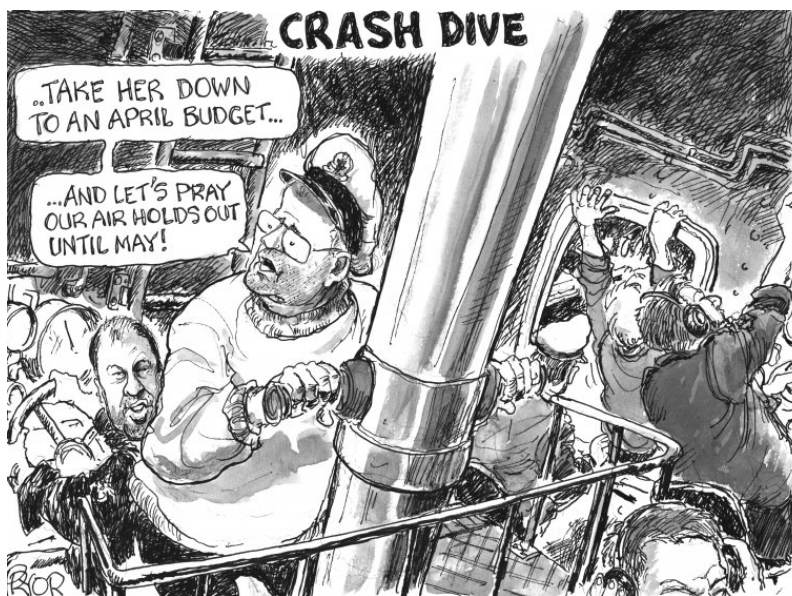
Fraser Anning must be censured and ostracised. His contributions in the public sphere needs to be erased, not enabled.

The dog-whistling and normalising of racist speech must stop, now. It is not OK, even in America, to shout “fire!” in a crowded theatre. Nor to incite or normalise what we’ve just seen. This isn’t a game.

THE NET – Bernard Keane (Crikey)

Both liberal Western authoritarian governments began devoting massive resources to surveilling their own citizens, often invoking terrorism as their justification. Those who exposed this surveillance, like Edward Snowden or Barrett Brown, were targeted with exemplary punishment. The Chinese government began to construct an entire social control apparatus based on social media. The US government recognised early on how social media could be used to influence political debates in other countries and devoted resources to it, little realising those exact tactics would be used against it by Russia.

The sheer tide of taxpayer money flowing to surveillance, and ever-expanding laws giving security agencies more power, helped turn the internet into a closely monitored public space for non-violent political activists, while malignant actors continued to operate unaffected in the shadows.



The result: the interconnectedness people like me lauded now looks less like a promise of freedom and more like being shackled to governments, corporations and extremists who each, in their own way, have nothing but contempt for us.

"The only way to effectively combat graffiti is to immediately erase it. The theory, which does work (I've tested it), is that denying the graffitiists the physical proof of their work is the thing most likely to dissuade them from bothering again. The same (tested this too) applies with online trolls. A policy of never engaging, never replying, treating them with the absolutely silent disregard that they have earned, leaves them in their echo chamber, alone and irrelevant." - [MICHAEL BRADLEY](#) Managing partner at Marque Lawyers

ANYTHING FOR A VOTE?



Earlier, Mr Morrison had shut down questions about whether he ever sought to capitalise on "anti-Muslim sentiment" in a shadow cabinet meeting, describing the claim as a "repugnant lie".

At the time, a Liberal colleague told *The Sydney Morning Herald*, "He put it on the table like a dead cat," at a meeting called to formulate political attack lines and asked the shadow cabinet: "What are we going to do about multiculturalism? What are we going to do about concerns about Muslims?"

Mr Morrison said when questioned by *The New Daily* on Wednesday: "I'm going to stop you there. It is a repugnant lie, 100 per cent, and my working record with the Muslim community, in particular, speaks volumes."

"Any suggestion to the contrary, I find utterly offensive."

Three current and former cabinet ministers – Greg Hunt, Peter Dutton, and David Johnston told *The New Daily* on Sunday they backed Mr Morrison's recollections that he never made the comments.

The public denial of private discussions within the shadow cabinet by multiple ministers is highly unusual and underlines deep concerns within the party the Coalition is vulnerable to political attacks on the claims.

However, it has emerged that Mr Hunt did not attend the relevant meeting, calling into question his recollections.

On Monday, Mr Hunt told *The New Daily* [Mr Morrison did not make the comments](#).

"As someone who was in the shadow cabinet at the time, the story was clearly categorically and unequivocally false then and remains clearly, categorically and unequivocally false to this day," Mr Hunt said.

But Mr Hunt was not actually there, telling ABC radio at the time: "Unfortunately I wasn't at the meeting. But I know Scott and his style is deep compassion. He is deeply compassionate."

NO EQUALITY IN BANKING

Forget the years of talk about bringing talented women through the ranks into line management jobs in order to provide boards with a diversity of choices for CEO succession planning. Instead, boards of directors have fallen back on the outdated idea that in times of crisis it is best to employ a man. The stalling of diversity goes beyond the big four banks, as shown by the latest report on gender equality published this week by Chief Executive Women (CEW). Research by Bain & Co found that 64 per cent of men feel satisfied with their current level of engagement with gender diversity but 70 per cent of women said they would like men to be more involved.

CEW president Sue Morphet this week lamented the fact that when she became CEO of Pacific Brands in 2007 there were four women CEOs in the S&P/ASX200 and today there are only 14.

This rate of progress points to an equal number of male and female CEOs in the top 200 in about 86 years' time or 2105.

This week's management reshuffle by Westpac triggered by CEO Brian Hartzer's decision to reset the wealth management business was a chance to bring through some talented women. Instead it resulted in three key promotions and all were men.

A LEADER



Penny Wong has landed this year's McKinnon Prize for Political Leadership, an initiative of the Susan McKinnon Foundation and the University of Melbourne's School of Government. Wong receives the McKinnon Prize "for her leadership and advocacy in promoting a more tolerant and inclusive Australia, and for shaping Australia's foreign policy dialogue" in her role as Labor's foreign affairs spokeswoman. The award was conferred by an esteemed panel of judges including former Prime Ministers Julia Gillard and John Howard, Business Council chief executive Jennifer Westacott, and the former Defence Secretary Dennis Richardson

LEMONS



Over four years of available transparency data from the Tax Office, Ford has booked over \$11 billion in total income yet paid zero tax, despite producing a small taxable profit of \$45 million.

When it comes to the worst corporate taxpayers in Australia, the carmakers are right up there with airlines and the oil and gas industry.

Like its rivals General Motors and Toyota, Ford contributes little or nothing to Australia in terms of income tax. Yet the automakers have won billions in government handouts over the years, [often made losses and very rarely pay tax](#).

In the years when they do make a profit, their profits are reduced by transfer pricing and sheltered by large tax losses incurred in the lean years.

BIG OIL NO TAX

Whether it is [misleading the Parliament of Australia](#), cutting its workers' wages, paying zero tax while racking up \$33 billion in income, sending gas prices into the stratosphere or dudding the poor people of Papua New Guinea, Exxon has flair.

It is also a master of intrigue. You won't find the financial reports for ExxonMobil Australia on its website, you won't even find the name of its directors, despite the size of this operation. You certainly won't find their photographs without Googling madly and paying for company searches.

You absolutely won't find mention of 585 entities Exxon has in the Bahamas, or for that matter, any breakdown of related tax-haven associations.

How is it that this, the biggest of the US oil majors, a corporation that has been making fabulous profits in Australia for 50 years, can pay zero income tax? How does it skin its taxable income in this country back to zero?

In fact, ExxonMobil (under the trading name 'Esso') drilled Australia's first offshore well through a joint venture with BHP Billiton, when it discovered the Barracouta gas field in the Bass Strait in 1965.

Two years later Kingfish was found, the first offshore oil field, which to this day remains the largest oil field discovered in Australia.

How is it that with record, eye-watering gas prices, Exxon pays no income tax?



Its financial statements provide a few clues: Massive "debt-loading" – its Australian companies borrow billions of dollars from other Exxon companies overseas and funnel hundreds of millions of dollars out via interest payments on the loans.

And finally it has been pinged for it. Its 2018 financial report discloses the Australian Tax Office has been investigating Exxon's related-party loans and has busted it for being slippery, issuing amended income tax assessments for 2010 and 2011.

Exxon brazenly notes it might sue the tax office, or settle, as it continues to "negotiate" over what it claims is fair pricing. These fighting words are typical of a bullying multinational oil giant.

Yet, it also notes the fight with the ATO has implications for 2012 to 2017 and Exxon is acutely aware of what befell its peer, Chevron, which muscled up to the ATO and lost an historic case, for pretty much the same practice – aggressive "transfer pricing of

money".

Post the four-year ATO tax transparency figures, Exxon's latest financial statements show more of the same – thanks to spiking gas prices, cash flow jumped from \$8.2 billion to \$11.3 billion. Profits were wiped out by massive related-party debt.

Tax rose from \$341 million to \$508 million. But guess what? Not in Australia. This tax booked in the Australian entity, although the accounts don't specify it, and although Exxon executives refused to be interviewed about it, represents tax paid in other countries, namely Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

Further, they have lobbied in petroleum resource rent tax (PRRT) as income tax, when it has the quality of a royalty for extracting non-renewable resources from the seabed.

And then there's the monster debt, the monster weapon of tax avoidance: Some \$1.8 billion in finance charges over the past two years on Exxon's eye-watering debt of \$17.6 billion – debt owed to itself, offshore, debt to suck the profits out of Australia along with the gas.

Exxon-Mobil provided the following response, on Thursday:

"We have made significant contribution to Australia's economic wellbeing through the reliable supply of energy that helps fuel growth and \$40 billion in the country. We have paid more than \$2 billion in corporate income tax alone since 2000, as well as more than \$13 billion in Petroleum Rent Resource tax since 1990.

"On average more than \$600 million has been paid to the federal government each year for over a quarter of a century. With a total investment of more than \$21 billion since 2010, of which 85 per cent has been invested over the past six years, we are a substantial investor in the Australian economy and a major contributor to the wealth of the nation."

[As a correspondent for the ABC based in Washington DC I had cause to fly to Prince William Sound to examine the supposed clean-up after the catastrophic Exxon-Valdez oil spill of March 24, 1989 – my findings were used by insurers in a New York court seeking to deny an Exxon claim for billions in clean-up costs on the basis that the 'clean-up was a sham and nothing more than a media stunt. Ed]

MEANWHILE This from Wikipedia

"Federal scientists estimate that between 16,000 and 21,000 US gallons (61 to 79 m³) of oil remains on beaches in Prince William Sound and up to 450 miles (725 km) away. Some of the oil does not appear to have biodegraded at all. A [USGS](#) scientist who analyses the remaining oil along the coastline states that it remains among rocks and between tide marks. "The oil mixes with seawater and forms an emulsion...Left out, the surface crusts over but the inside still has the consistency of mayonnaise – or mousse." Alaska state senator Berta Gardner is urging Alaskan politicians to demand that the US government force ExxonMobil to pay the final \$92 million (£57 million) still owed from the court settlement. The major part of the money would be spent to finish cleaning up oiled beaches and attempting to restore the crippled herring population.¹"

WOW

Google Australia reported revenue of \$1 billion in 2017, including \$604 million from advertising. Yet it paid just \$37 million in tax on a total profit of \$125 million

HOTELS FOR THE BOYS

[The Sydney Morning Herald reports](#) that the NSW Coalition government sold a hotel to a Liberal donor in a closed tender despite internal warnings it could breach ICAC guidelines. Former NSW finance minister Greg Pearce ignored advice from the State Property Authority and oversaw the \$16.8 million sale of Circular Quay's prestigious Sir Stamford without a public tender process to a company controlled by billionaire donor Chio Kiat Ow in July 2013. In related news, [SMH also reports](#) that NSW Treasury's head of commercial transactions James Dolton took on a CFO role at Land and Property Information in 2016, six months before the government announced a \$2.6 billion privatisation deal and three years after he first conducted a scoping study into the organisation's sale.

LOTTERY LOSERS

Figures released last week reveal that 10 lottery wins ranging from \$300,000 to \$1,000,000 have still not been claimed but what is strange is that 6 of them were purchased by ... Queenslanders! Empty those pockets look down the back of the couch, or try to remember where you were drinking at the time!!

UNBELIEVABLE!

A champion racing pigeon dubbed the "Lewis Hamilton of pigeons" has fetched an astonishing \$2 million at auction. The price for the champion bird, named Armando, eclipsed the previous record for a racing pigeon of \$600,000. He was sold by Belgian pigeon auction house Pipa, which described Armando as the "best Belgian long-distance pigeon of all time".



March 21st is World Down Syndrome Day, which has been officially recognised by the United Nations since 2012. On this day, people all around the world celebrate the lives and achievements of people with Down syndrome, creating a global voice, advocating for the rights, inclusion and wellbeing of people with Down syndrome.

LABOR TO DELIVER A NATIONAL APOLOGY TO THALIDOMIDE SURVIVORS

Shorten/King

A Shorten Labor Government will deliver a national apology in the Australian Parliament to the survivors of the thalidomide tragedy.
A formal apology is the first recommendation of a Senate inquiry into thalidomide, initiated by Labor in consultation with survivors last year.

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



Over the past eight months, this inquiry has provided an opportunity for Australian survivors and their families to finally have their voices heard. They shared their stories about the profound impact their injuries have had – and are still having – on their lives. The inquiry found that Australian authorities did not do all they could to get this drug off the shelves and prevent this tragedy. “If the Australian Government had acted more swiftly it has been estimated that approximately 20 per cent of Australia’s thalidomide survivors may not be disabled,” the report finds. The report concludes that Australia has a “moral obligation” to do more to help our survivors.

A national apology would demonstrate that the parliament recognises the pain that has been caused, and that survivors and their families require more support in the years to come so that they

can live independently and with dignity.

We have written to Scott Morrison to ask him to make the same commitment.

We have also invited Mr Morrison to work with us on the possible establishment of a compensation scheme to give survivors the support they need as they grow older.

The inquiry found that the compensation and payouts provided by the pharmaceutical companies responsible for the tragedy are not sufficient to support Australian survivors as they age and their health needs grow more complex.

A number of other governments around the world – including Canada, Germany, Japan and the UK – have established statutory support schemes for their thalidomide survivors but Australia has never done so.

Indeed, throughout the course of the inquiry the governments of Canada and Belgium both announced new commitments to survivors. Labor will consider the report’s other recommendations but we believe a national apology is a critical first step.

QUEENSLAND

FEDERAL LABOR TO BUY THE GLADSTONE MATER HOSPITAL – Shorten/King/Beers

A Shorten Labor Government will ensure the people of Gladstone continue to get the health services they need by buying the city’s private hospital and partnering with the Queensland Government to keep it open.

Following the representations made by Labor Candidate for Flynn, Zac Beers, Federal Labor is committing to spending \$15 million to help acquire the hospital on behalf of the Queensland Government.

We welcome the announcement by the Queensland Government that they will operate the Mater as an extension of the existing public hospital, ensuring the people of Gladstone don’t lose any of the health services they rely on.

Like many private hospitals across the country, the Gladstone Mater Hospital is under pressure – and will close without intervention – because of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government’s failures on health policy.

The LNP’s failure to rein in the cost of private health insurance has seen premiums go up by an average \$1100 since 2013. As a result, hundreds of thousands of Australians have ditched their cover – putting many regional private hospitals like the Gladstone Mater at risk. The Queensland Labor Government last week called on Scott Morrison to help save the Gladstone Mater but he has refused to engage because he doesn’t care whether regional Queenslanders have adequate health services.

In welcoming the announcement, Zac Beers said “this is a big win for the Gladstone community and will provide great peace of mind for local families that they will continue to have access to affordable and quality healthcare.

“Following the Mater’s public announcement last week, I went to work to secure this major funding commitment to save the Mater Hospital. “As one of Australia’s major industrial towns, it’s so important we have the local healthcare capacity to cater for future population and industrial growth. Like many local residents, I am sick and tired of the current LNP Federal Member Flynn sitting on his hands when it comes to critical local issues. I’ll always fight to deliver the outcomes Gladstone needs and deserves” said Zac Beers.

This investment builds on Federal Labor’s existing commitment to deliver a publicly funded MRI licence for Gladstone and to more than reverse the \$6.1 million in LNP cuts to Central Queensland Hospitals.

Saving the Mater is part of Labor’s Fair Go Action Plan to fix our hospitals and strengthen Medicare.

The LNP on the other hand just cut and cut and cut from health. As Treasurer, Scott Morrison cut from health and hospitals in every Budget he delivered. He cut \$160 million from Queensland's hospitals under the current 2017 to 2020 funding agreement, including \$6.1 million from Central Queensland Hospitals. And now he's trying to lock in those cuts for another five years – a dud deal that the Queensland Labor Government is resisting.

Labor will reverse the Liberal cuts with our \$2.8 billion Better Hospitals Fund, which we will use to fund this new investment. Only Labor can be trusted to fix Queensland's health and hospital services. And only Labor can be trusted to rein in private health insurance costs by capping premiums at two per cent for two years, saving the average family \$340. We will also order a Productivity Commission inquiry to come up with long-term reforms to restore value and affordability to health insurance.

LABOR: A FULL-TIME FEDERAL CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE IN TOWNSVILLE Dreyfus/O'Toole

A Labor government will appoint a full-time, local Federal Circuit Judge in Townsville, helping to clear the backlog of urgent family law cases that have been worsened by the Liberal-National Government.

In a shocking case of neglect, Scott Morrison and Attorney-General Christian Porter have left Townsville without a full-time, local judge for Townsville since the end of February. That has left local vulnerable families in the lurch – including women escaping domestic violence, and at-risk children. Labor will not stand for it.

Adding insult to injury, an announcement by the government of four new Federal Circuit Court Judges in mid-March left Townsville out. This is unacceptable.

Townsville is a city of nearly 200,000 people. Since a full-time Federal Circuit Court judge left the city in February, Townsville has been serviced by 'fly-in, fly-out' judges from other regions. The local legal profession, Queensland Law Society, and the Law Council have spoken up about the need for a full-time judge but the government has ignored them.

Labor will act to appoint a full-time Federal Circuit Court Judge based in Townsville, with extensive family law experience. Unlike the government, Labor has a transparent and accountable judicial appointments policy, which will ensure those who are best qualified for the job will get the job.

Mark Dreyfus, Shadow Attorney-General said: "Labor will not let the shocking neglect of Townsville's families by this government continue any longer. I'm pleased to be making this announcement today alongside local member Cathy O'Toole, who has been effective in highlighting the urgency of this situation for Townsville."

Cathy O'Toole said, "Under this LNP Government over 300 residents and families are waiting to have their matter resolved. What Townsville needs is a local full-time Federal Circuit Judge, with practical family law experience. Labor has listened to what the community wants and needs and has acted. Labor's announcement today will greatly benefit the people of Townsville."

\$1.5 MILLION FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVES IN

O'Neil/Ketter/Lamb/ France Dickson/Mulholland Petrie

A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$1.5 million in the Moreton Bay area to improve community safety as part of its National Crime Prevention Fund.

Labor has spoken to representatives in the Moreton Bay Region on the frontline of community safety who are working to address the challenges of local crime, drug and alcohol abuse and anti-social behaviour.

We have heard how they have been let down by the Liberal Government, and we will invest \$1.5 million to improve safety in their community.

Tuesday's announcement will allow the Moreton Bay Regional Council to nominate high-quality community safety initiatives for up to \$1.5 million in funding from the Federal government. This funding can go towards community safety infrastructure (such as lighting, CCTV or bollards) or projects run by local community organisations.



Labor is absolutely committed to improving the safety of all Australian communities. This announcement builds on Labor's recent commitment to expand legal assistance for Australian families and provide an additional 20,000 Flexible Support Packages nation-wide to assist Australians affected by family violence.

"This investment in our community will have a really positive influence on the area. What I've heard from local police officers is that cooperation and support from other levels of government and community organisations really pays off in enhancing safety in the area" Member for Longman Susan Lamb said.

"Sadly, we are hearing a number of reports of vandalism in our local schools and it's often nearby CCTV cameras that help police to catch the culprits and deter future offenders," Labor candidate for Petrie, Ms Mulholland said. Senator Ketter said despite being a Federal representative, local crime is often a big issue raised with him when attending community events – particularly in the Moreton Bay region.

"This is a community that has been let down by the Liberal Government. Labor has listened, and we will be investing \$1.5 million to make the Moreton Bay community safer." Ms O'Neil said.

Labor is committed to keeping Australian communities safe from crime. Unlike the Liberals, Labor is listening to the experts and the people of Moreton Bay and will provide \$1.5 million to improve community safety in this area.

ECONOMY

LABOR LAUNCHES ITS PLAN FOR SMALL BUSINESS - Bowen

Labor has today launched its official Small Business policy handbook "[Standing up for Small Business.](#)"



Through active consultation and engagement, Labor knows there are many challenges facing established and emerging small businesses in this country, and we are committed to enabling and encouraging their success.

A Shorten Labor Government would boost our vibrant small business community and diversify Australia's economy, while still investing in our world class education and strengthening quality healthcare across the country.

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

Labor's Australian Investment Guarantee will drive investment by allowing businesses in Australia to immediately deduct 20 per cent of any new eligible asset worth more

than \$20,000, with the balance depreciated in line with normal schedules from the first year.

Labor has been leading the way on small business policy, with our Small Business Access to Justice policy passing into law in the last parliamentary sitting period. Because small businesses are less likely to seek help from our court system to stand up to big business, Small Business Access to Justice will make sure they get support to defend themselves against anti-competitive conduct.

It's a policy the small business sector have wanted for a long time, but which the Coalition repeatedly voted against. Only with Labor, and the help of some renegade Nationals, did this important reform pass through the House.

Every small and medium business is unique, and the diversity of Labor's policies in support of these businesses encompasses many different portfolio areas.

"There are a suite of measures in this handbook which will enable small businesses in Australia to flourish under a Shorten Labor Government, including the Australian Investment Guarantee, which encourage investment and cash flow," said Mr Bowen.

"Small business is the backbone of our economy; there are nearly half a million small businesses in this state, and they employ half a million people," said Ms King.

"As a former small business owner, I know how important thriving small businesses are to growing our economy.

"Labor knows that when small businesses do well, the economy does well. Labor will always choose to support small businesses over the top end of town," said Ms Beazley. Labor's "Standing up for Small Business" policy handbook brings it all together.

GOVT ALL SIZZLE AND NO SAUSAGE ON MULTINATIONAL TAX AVOIDANCE – Leigh

The Coalition's approach to multinational tax avoidance boils down to two tactics: telling the public what they won't do, and claiming credit for revenue raised by Labor's laws (which they voted against in 2013).

The latest announcement by Treasurer Josh Frydenberg is more of the same: explaining why he won't implement a digital sales tax, while failing to offer any concrete action on multinational tax avoidance.

The Treasurer talks vaguely about supporting global reform of the tax system, but Australia is largely missing in action from the international reform process. We are no longer represented on the Steering Group of the OECD's Inclusive Framework on BEPS - a key body that has been shaping the multinational tax reform agenda.

Meanwhile, the Treasurer has been quick to rule out Labor's measures to close tax loopholes. Just as the Coalition voted against the Gillard Government's multinational tax avoidance laws (they claimed the laws were retrospective), they now oppose our measures to close debt-deduction loopholes and provide more accountability and transparency for firms operating in tax havens.

The Coalition is spending millions of dollars on taxpayer-funded ads designed to persuade people that it is closing tax loopholes. Meanwhile, they appear to have no new agenda for actually reforming the multinational tax system.

If the Coalition was serious about the issue, they would commit to Labor's multinational tax plan to crack down on tax avoidance and tax havens in April's budget.

If elected, a Shorten Labor Government will:

- Tighten debt-deduction loopholes used by multinational companies, improving the Budget by \$3 billion over the medium term
- Close a debt deduction loophole to ensure consistent treatment in related party financing arrangements
- Automatically deny deductions from companies for travel to and from tax havens, and clamp down on unsubstantiated allowances related to tax havens
- Increase penalties for individuals and entities promoting tax evasion and avoidance
- Crack down on citizenship shopping by requiring all individual Australian taxpayers to notify and declare to the Australian Taxation Office if they have residency or citizenship of any other jurisdiction and the name of that jurisdiction
- Introduce public reporting of country-by-country reports, ensuring the release of high-level tax information about where and how much tax was paid by large corporations (over \$1 billion in global revenue)
- Provide protection for whistleblowers who report on entities evading and, where whistleblowers' information results in more tax being paid, allow them to collect a share of the tax penalty
- Introduce a publicly accessible registry of the beneficial ownership of Australian listed companies and trusts, allowing the public to find out who really owns our firms
- Introduce mandatory shareholder reporting of tax haven exposure, requiring companies to disclose to shareholders as a 'Material Tax Risk' if the company is doing business in a tax haven
- Appoint a community sector representative to the Board of Taxation to ensure community sector voices are heard in tax design and review processes

- Introduce public reporting of Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) data and require the annual public release of international cash flow data
- Require all firms tendering for Australian Government contracts worth more than \$200,000 to state their country of domicile for tax purposes
- Develop guidelines for tax haven investment by superannuation funds
- Require that the Australian Taxation Office's annual report provide information on the number and size of tax settlements
- Restore Labor's \$100 million threshold for public reporting of tax data for private companies, which was raised to \$200 million by the Liberals and Greens in a move which exempted two-thirds of private firms from tax transparency

If only this divided, dysfunctional government could spend as much energy on real multinational tax reform as it does on claiming credit for laws it voted against, and explaining why it doesn't need to do anything else.

INEQUALITY AND AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL DISCOURSE

Wayne Swan – Excerpts from Melbourne School of Government Lecture series 2019: Talking about Economic Inequality Thursday, 21 March 2019



"Not long ago, if you suggested, as I and some others did, that the answer to our economic problems was not to cut taxes to already well-off to boost incentive, you were howled down as a class warrior and an economic wrecker.

Now saying such things is considered mainstream.

*In 2012 Joseph Stiglitz published his **The Price of Inequality** in which he argued that rising inequality leads not just to rising crime, health problems, educational failure and lower life expectancy, but also to lower levels of growth. A Nobel Prize winner rejects the dominant orthodoxy!*

*In 2014 Thomas Piketty published **Capital in the Twenty-First Century**, in which he argued that the increasing accumulation of wealth in the hands of fewer people will stir discontent and undermine our democratic values. Two years before the election of Donald Trump! Three years before the Brexit vote!*

In that same year the Governor of the Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said in a speech that "just as any revolution eats its children, unchecked market fundamentalism can devour the social capital essential for the long-term dynamism of capitalism itself." And just last year he said that mass job losses caused by advancing technology could lead to a rise of Marxism. The head of the Bank of England quoting Karl Marx! Who but Marx himself would have thought that possible?

The world's premier economic organisation, the International Monetary Fund, is now arguing for an international agenda of inclusive growth. The Washington Consensus rejected by its very creators!

And here, the Governor of the Reserve Bank now says that the most substantial threat to economic growth isn't militant unions or the urgent need for big corporate tax cuts. It's our stagnant wages and our growing levels of income inequality. The RBA? Hard to believe, isn't it!"

SQM'S CONFUSED ATTACK ON LABOR'S REFORMS TO NEGATIVE GEARING – Bowen

A report released on Thursday by SQM [Research] on Labor's reforms to negative gearing, supported by commentary this morning from Mr Louis Christopher, is confused and all over the shop in terms of its conclusions, assumptions and policy prescriptions.

Mr Christopher on Thursday on ABC radio – alongside his report – seems to be arguing:

- Labor should *not* fully grandfather current property investors;
- Negative gearing should be semi-grandfathered or phased-in for new investors over three years;
- Assumes bank lending becomes less restrictive under the Liberals but not under Labor – why???

Federal Labor's housing affordability reforms enjoy the support of many independent economists and think tanks like the Grattan Institute and Saul Eslake as well as international economic agencies like the International Monetary Fund.

SQM's Louis Christopher's 'analysis' and cataclysmic conclusions are not new, they are an update of what he released in November last year. Previously, and even this morning on ABC radio, Mr Christopher continues to walk the line of forecasting doom and gloom under Labor while saying he supports the reforms to negative gearing.

This morning Mr Christopher said on ABC radio that while he supports Labor's reforms to negative gearing he thinks there should be a phase in – well there is no greater transitional arrangement than having **all current property investments that are negatively geared, fully grandfathered.**

Federal Labor put to Mr Christopher yesterday that his report had a major inconsistency in the treatment of various hypothetical scenarios, whereby only in the scenario that models the Liberal Party's no reform option is it assumed that "bank lending is less restrictive". Why is that particular to that scenario only? The availability of credit in the economy has a material impact on house prices as we have seen over the last year or so.

It also remains unclear why the SQM analysis fails to consider what has driven house prices down under the Liberals, particularly in Sydney and Melbourne, over the last year.

Interestingly, the report forecasts an increase in rents of 9 per cent under the Liberals but 12 per cent under Labor's reforms to negative gearing, it then goes on to suggest that:

"... by the same token, once the market returns to equilibrium, completions would likely recover providing long term relief to rents as envisioned by Labor".

Mr Christopher's analysis and conclusions about dramatic falls in house prices is contradicted by the Australian Treasury, who in documents recently released under the Freedom of Information Act, said in response to Liberal claims that house prices would fall under Labor that:

"The ... statement is not consistent with our advice. We did not say that the proposed policies 'will' reduce house prices.

"We said that they 'could' put downward pressure on house prices in the short-term depending on what else was going on in the market at the time, but in the long-term they were unlikely to have much impact."

At the next election there's a choice: The Liberals' plan to stand up for banks and top end of town, or Labor's plan to fix our schools and hospitals.

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

If you already use negative gearing, nothing changes. It's not retrospective. And you can still use it for new houses.

Federal Labor is reforming negative gearing to put young first home buyers on more of a level playing field with property investors seeking their 6th or 7th property.

GOVT AND VESTED INTERESTS PUT LIES AHEAD OF REFORMS – Bowen

As the election creeps closer expect Josh Frydenberg and the Liberal Party, without a positive plan for the economy or housing affordability, to champion any shonky report written by any property market spruiker.

The Liberal Party has nowhere left to turn in support of their lies and dodgy claims over Labor's housing affordability policies with the Treasury disowning Liberal Party claims that Labor's reforms "will" reduce house prices.

There's been a parade of shonky property reports claiming to 'model' Labor's reforms, but all fail to make reasonable policy assumptions or factor in Labor's actual policy settings.

Making ridiculous claims about massive property price falls or increases in rents resulting from Labor's reforms is both irresponsible and flies in the face of the evidence of the Australian Treasury and independent economists.

To claim Labor's reforms will see massive increases in rents simply fails to acknowledge Labor's reforms full grandfather all existing property investments.

It was revealed just a few weeks ago that the Government asked Treasury last year to fact check a statement that included a reference that Labor's housing affordability reforms 'will reduce house prices'.

In response the Treasury advised:

"The ... statement is not consistent with our advice. We did not say that the proposed policies 'will' reduce house prices.

"We said that they 'could' put downward pressure on house prices in the short-term depending on what else was going on in the market at the time, but in the long-term they were unlikely to have much impact."

This proves beyond doubt that Scott Morrison and his desperate Liberals have been lying to Australians about Labor's policy.

There's now a long list of independent economists and international economic agencies like the International Monetary Fund that have called for reforms to Australia's overly generous property tax concessions.

The evidence is clear that the benefits of both negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount are skewed towards the wealthiest Australians.

At the next election there's a choice: The Liberals' plan to stand up for banks and top end of town, or Labor's plan to fix our schools and hospitals.

Our plan is good for the budget, good for construction jobs and fair for first home buyers.

If you already use negative gearing, nothing changes. It's not retrospective. And you can still use it for new houses.

Federal Labor is reforming negative gearing to put young first home buyers on more of a level playing field with property investors seeking their 6th or 7th property.

TIME FOR LIBS TO DROP UNFAIR EX-PAT CGT CHANGES – Bowen

The Assistant Treasurer, Stuart Robert has belled the cat on the Liberals unfair and retrospective changes to the main residence exemption for capital gains tax regime that has caught ex-pat Australians out.



The 2017 Budget measure due to come into effect on 1 July 2019, means that thousands of Australians who have worked for a period of time overseas face a retrospective capital gains tax hit.

On Tuesday in the Australian Financial Review, Mr Robert is quoted as saying in relation to the changes that:

"Sometimes things get announced and don't get progressed and it's just best to leave it that way."

It's time for Josh Frydenberg to drop what is appalling policy and back this measure out of the Budget bottom line.

The Assistant Treasurer has all but confirmed the Government isn't serious about passing

this legislation and if that's the case and this isn't another Stuart Robert gaffe, the Treasurer should do the honourable thing and drop it altogether.

If the Liberals leave this measure in the Budget baseline without attempting to pass the legislation, it will be yet another zombie measure propping up a Liberal Budget.

Federal Labor has written twice to the Government now with an offer to get this ex pat CGT tax slug dealt with so certainty can be restored.

LIBERALS HAVE NO EXCUSES FOR BUDGET FAILURES – Bowen/Chalmers

Scott Morrison and the Liberals have no excuses for their mismanagement of the Australian economy and Budget as well as record and growing debt, a new report has confirmed.

Deloitte Access Economics, in its latest Budget Monitor, has indicated next month's Budget will be framed by a weakening economy, but a surge in revenue on the back of company profits and commodity prices:

"The economy is getting worse, but the Budget's getting better."

The Liberals have mismanaged the domestic economic, which is suffering from negative per capita growth, weak wages growth and flat productivity growth, and yet the Government is irresponsibly riding on the coat tails of another temporary commodity price resurgence.

Deloitte used the report to join calls from others, including the IMF, to rebuild fiscal buffers to prepare in the event of an economic downturn:

"The current run of good news on commodity prices (and company profits) could just as easily turn nasty, leaving a China-shaped hole in the nation's finances."

Despite billions of dollars in revenue pouring through the door and the urgent need for Budget repair, the Liberals have racked up record and growing debt and left the Budget in a much worse position than they inherited it from Labor, which had a Global Financial Crisis to contend with.

On the Liberals' watch, net debt has more than doubled to a new record high of \$373.4 billion and gross debt has crashed through half-a-trillion dollars for the first time ever in the country's history.

Since becoming Prime Minister just over six months ago, Scott Morrison has already added about \$21 billion in net debt – or about \$135 million a day.

Deloitte was particularly critical of the Liberals' unrealistic wages forecasts, which mean the Budget is likely to be in even worse shape than expected:

"The gap between Treasury's forecast of wages and ours (or, for that matter, those of the Reserve Bank) grows steadily over time.

Any objective look at the facts shows the Liberals are far from the superior economic and fiscal managers they claim to be: debt is at record highs, growth has slowed, wages are stagnant, living standards have stalled and demand is lagging.

Labor has made the tough calls when it comes to repairing the Budget and growing our economy in an inclusive and sustainable way in the interests of ordinary Australians.

At the same time as we properly fund schools, hospitals and infrastructure, Labor is the only party with a plan to pay down the Liberals' record debt and build the fiscal buffers we need while the economic circumstances allow.

ENDING TAX REFUNDS FOR FRANKING CREDITS – Hart/Leigh

Tax loopholes occur when we write our tax laws in a way that inadvertently allows revenue to slip away. Those who use loopholes aren't breaking the law, but the effect is that we don't raise the revenue we need to fund vital services.

That's what's happened with refundable franking credits. In 2001, as the first mining boom was showering John Howard and Peter Costello with more money than Scrooge McDuck, they decided to put in place a system unique to Australia. Not only would the tax system allow people to offset company taxes against their personal tax obligation, it would actually write refunds to people who'd paid no tax.

For the first time, the tax office started playing the same role as Centrelink and the Family Assistance Office. Instead of collecting revenue from taxpayers, it started to pay out revenue. For a small group of people, the tax office started sending cheques rather than collecting them.

At first, this arrangement didn't cost all that much. In its first year, the budgetary hit was \$550 million. But today, it's costing more than ten times that - almost \$6 billion. It's an arrangement that was never intended - in other words, a loophole. Only 4 percent of Australians receive cash refunds of their franking credits. Half of the money goes to people with more than \$2.4 million in their superannuation accounts.

Like every tax loophole, refundable franking credits have their defenders. For people who have grown accustomed to receiving these cheques, ending them will understandably be a disappointment. We recognise that many beneficiaries of refundable franking credits have worked hard and saved frugally.

But it's vital that everyone understands the purpose of Labor's reforms. We are ending cash refunds for franking credits so that we can reduce elective and emergency surgery waiting times. So that we can create more aged care places. So that we can properly fund public schools. So that we can restore money to vocational training and expand university places. So that we can pay down the Liberals' debt.

Labor's policy is simple: no cash refunds for people who do not pay any tax. Self-managed superannuation funds will continue to be able to use franking credits to reduce their tax bill, but will simply no longer be able to claim a refund if they haven't paid any income tax. Industry and retail superannuation funds will be treated in exactly the same way.

Labor's Pensioner Guarantee ensures people in receipt of an Australian Government pension or allowance will still be entitled to refunds of excess franking credits. Since the poorest two-thirds of retirees receive at least a part-pension, this means that most pensioners are unaffected. If you're one of the 13,826 age pensioners in the Bass electorate, you are entirely exempt from the policy. Anyone who becomes eligible for a pension in future will also be eligible for refunds of excess franking credits on any shares they directly hold.

The original dividend imputation system introduced by Paul Keating in 1987 did not allow for cash refunds for excess franking credits. But the loophole created by the Howard Government created a significant budget problem. If the current arrangements are allowed to continue, future governments will be faced with an \$8 billion annual hole in the budget over the next decade.

Losing \$8 billion a year in revenue is equivalent to more than Commonwealth spending on Australia's public schools this year. It is also more than we spend on our public broadcasters, vocational education and the federal police. With net government debt now over \$14,000 per person, the nation can no longer afford tax concessions like giving out cash refunds for excess imputation credits.

The purpose of superannuation is to relieve pressure on the age pension - not to allow people to accumulate large sums to pass on to their children. We can't keep every tax loophole open, and pay down debt, and improve services. Something's gotta give.

Under Bill Shorten and Chris Bowen, Labor is focused on creating a fairer Australia - one that works for everyone, not just the top end of town.

Ross Hart is the Federal Member for Bass.. This opinion piece was published by the Launceston Examiner on Thursday, 21 March 2019.

IMMIGRATION

LIBERALS' BROKEN TEMPORARY PARENT VISA PROMISE – Neumann/Keogh

It has been 1004 days since the Liberals promised a temporary sponsored parent visa to Australia's migrant and multicultural communities before the last Federal election and it's still not available.

Worse still, the Liberals have announced new conditions on their temporary sponsored parent visa to limit it to one set of parents per household – forcing Australian couples to choose between which parents or in-laws they reunite with.

Perth's multicultural leaders, migration agents and community members have shared their disappointment over this failure at an immigration forum held at WA Parliament House hosted by Federal Member for Burt, Matt Keogh MP.

A temporary sponsored parent visa means children living in Australia can be reunited with their parents who live overseas – it means grandparents can meet, and have quality time with, their grandchildren born in Australia.

The previously unannounced conditions mean the Liberals are standing in the way of Australian families being able to temporarily reunite with their loved ones.

Can you imagine the choice a family has to make in choosing which parents or grandparents get to join them in Australia? This is what the

Liberals want for Australia's multicultural and migrant communities.

Immigration Minister David Coleman has claimed the Government will open the visa to applications after this year's Federal election – but how is anyone supposed to believe the Liberals after 1004 days of broken promises?

Australia's multicultural and migrant communities deserve better than Scott Morrison's divided and out of touch Government

THE FARM

FORESTRY DESERVES MORE ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS -Fitzgibbon



Australia's Forestry industry will be left disappointed and underwhelmed by the Morrison Government's latest funding announcement devised to celebrate International Day of Forests this week.

Labor acknowledges the United Nations annual day and the opportunity it provides to highlight the importance of education at all levels in achieving sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.

However, we also recognise that our forestry industry faces many challenges with education only being one. Our forestry industry needs more than tokenistic, drip fed funding announcements that fail to address the sector's real needs.

The fanfare of the \$200,000 announcement for forestry education is laughable.

Once again we see the Morrison government committing funding but no real detail as to how or when the funding will be delivered.

The forest industry is in crisis and needs more trees in the ground.

This Government has a long track record of failing to properly invest and support our important forestry sector.

Despite a string of announcements under the \$20 million National Forest Industries Plan, money has failed to flow to the industry which is in desperate need of genuine support. There is also no clear plan on how the money will actually be allocated.

The successive Abbott, Turnbull and Morrison Governments have delivered nothing meaningful for the forestry sector.

Our forestry industry deserves more.

DAIRY INDUSTRY NEEDS GOVERNMENT ACTION – Fitzgibbon

Labor welcomes the decisions of Coles and Aldi to raise their retail milk price. The retailers have done their bit, it's now time for the Government to have a go.

There is no guarantee that any of the 10 cent retail price increase will make its way back to farmers. To guarantee a better deal for them we need structural reform.

That's why Labor is proposing a Minimum Farm Gate Milk Price and a Mandatory Code of Conduct.

Yesterday I took my dairy policy consultations to Western Australia.

Dairy farmers in the State's south welcomed Labor's acknowledgement that the dairy industry is in crisis and our promise to intervene in a meaningful way.

As has been the case in all regions I have visited, the response to Labor's plan to have the ACCC test, assess and make design recommendations for a Minimum Farm Gate Milk Price was positive.

Labor recognises dairy farmers are caught in a cost-price squeeze which has been compounded by drought.

Labor's consultations will continue. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister refused to meet with struggling dairy farmers in Gilmore last week and Coalition MPs are continuing to ignore the plight of their local dairy farmers.

INFRASTRUCTURE

COALITION SHOULD GET BEHIND GENUINE HIGH SPEED RAIL – Albanese

Scott Morrison's latest re-announcement of his "faster rail" proposal to link big cities with regional centres is too little, too late when it comes to addressing traffic congestion and promoting regional development.

For nearly six years the Coalition has ignored the comprehensive blueprint for High Speed Rail connecting Brisbane and Melbourne via Sydney and Canberra that was developed by the former Federal Labor Government.



This project would revolutionise interstate travel and turbo-charge regional development.

At the same time, the Government has cut investment in public transport in Australia's big cities, worsening the traffic congestion Mr Morrison now claims he will fix by funding business cases into three proposals for new train lines linking Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to nearby regional centres.

The Prime Minister should back genuine High Speed Rail in the national interest.

In 2013 the former Federal Labor Government published a detailed feasibility study which found a line between Brisbane and Melbourne via Sydney and Canberra would produce \$2 of public benefit for every \$1 invested.

Based on that study, an independent panel led by former Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer and the Business Council of Australia's Jennifer Westacott recommended the creation of a High Speed Rail Authority to advance the project and begin acquisition of the corridor.

But as soon as it took office the Coalition Government shelved this work and has done nothing since to advance the project. It has also refused to allow debate on my Private Member's Bill which would create the High Speed Rail Authority in accordance with the earlier independent advice. I have had to reintroduce this Bill five times since 2014 due to a lack of bi-partisanship. Now, as the Government scrambles for solutions to traffic congestion exacerbated by its own neglect and lack of infrastructure investment, it pretends it is acting by periodically re-announcing its "faster rail" proposal. Genuine High Speed Rail down Australia's east coast would allow people to move between capital cities in as little as three hours at speeds of up to 350km per hour. High Speed Rail would also be a game-changer for communities along its path, including the Gold Coast, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Newcastle, the Central Coast, Southern Highlands, Canberra, Wagga Wagga and Shepparton. It would bring these communities closer to capital cities, allowing for increased commuting while also strengthening the case for regional business investment. Mr Morrison should get on board.

LABOR'S NATIONAL FIRE FIGHTING FLEET – Shorten/Dreyfus

A Shorten Labor Government will boost Australia's firefighting capabilities with a national fleet of aircraft and dedicated smokejumper units to keep Australians safe from bushfires.

All Australians understand the devastating impact that bushfires have. Lives are lost, homes destroyed and communities shattered.

Our firefighters and emergency services personnel are among the best in the world, and they do a tremendous job, often putting their own lives at risk. But they need more support from government.

At the moment, Australia doesn't have a government-owned fleet of water bombing aircraft – making us reliant on borrowing from private companies domestically and from overseas.

The bushfire season in Australia is lengthening and already overlapping with the northern hemisphere, increasing the risk that we won't be able to access the aircraft we need at times of peril.

At the same time, the Federal Government's contribution to the National Aerial Firefighting Centre has plummeted from 50 per cent of funding to just 23 per cent, reducing our overall firefighting capability.

The Bureau of Meteorology has identified this summer as Australia's hottest on record, which included devastating bushfires in Victoria and Tasmania. Now is the time to invest in giving our firefighters the resources they need to keep us all safe.

Labor's national firefighting package will deliver:

\$80 million to establish the National Aerial Bushfire Fighting Fleet of aircraft

This fleet will provide standing aerial firefighting capacity that can be used on demand in emergencies.

It will include retro-fitted Black Hawk helicopters as they are phased out from active use by the Australian Army and Erickson S-64 Air-crane helicopters (or 'Elvis' as they are commonly known) which has a 2,650 gallon tank capable of snorkelling or scooping fresh or salt water.

It's expected that the national fleet will include a standing capability of up to six Large or Very Large Air Tankers, and up to 12 heavy rotary wing helicopters.

The benefits of aerial firefighting are clear. Aircrafts offer speed, access and observation advantages over ground crews. Containment is more effective and the final fire burned area minimised using aerial capability, thereby reducing demand on ground crews.

Australia's first 'smokejumper' units

Smokejumper are firefighters trained to be rapidly deployed by helicopters at remote fires during the short window during which those fires can be contained.

Smokejumpers usually rappel from helicopters and use chain-saws, hoes and other dry firefighting tools to establish a containment perimeter around the fire. They then patrol the perimeter to ensure the fire does not jump containment lines while working with water-bombing aircraft to ensure the contained fire is fully extinguished.

California and other US states currently have a number of smokejumper units which have proven successful.

As part of the \$80 million commitment to establish a fleet, Labor will work with the states and territories to establish smokejumper units across the country.

\$21 million for the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC)

A Shorten Labor Government will stop the Federal Government's reduction in funding for our firefighting capabilities by returning to a 50-50 funding split between the states and territories and the Commonwealth.

Labor's investment will ease the burden on state and territory governments, develop new national programs including a national risk management model, and national research and development programs including trials of new aircraft and night firefighting activities.

Labor can pay for new firefighting aircraft the smokejumper units because we are making multinationals pay their fair share and closing tax loopholes for the top end of town.



GOVERNANCE

MORRISON MUST FOLLOW BIRMINGHAM'S LEAD – Wong

The Prime Minister must now end his weasel words on preferencing Pauline Hanson and Fraser Anning and endorse the stand taken by his most senior South Australian Senator.

Senator Birmingham this morning committed to putting Fraser Anning and One Nation at the bottom of the Liberal how to vote card, below Labor.

DAVID BEVAN: "Look it is pretty straight forward: do you put Fraser Anning and One Nation above the Labor Party? Or do you put them below the Labor Party?"

BIRMINGHAM: "Well I trust that we will be putting those of extremist positions at the bottom of the ticket and it's just a case of seeing which order you put the extremists inthere will be no deals with any of these parties and extremists will be at the bottom of the ticket." *[ABC Adelaide, 20 March 2019]*

I congratulate Senator Birmingham for demonstrating the clear ethical leadership on this issue which has been sadly lacking from Mr Morrison.

Mr Morrison has made very clear the Coalition is still prepared to recommend voters preference One Nation, Fraser Anning and other extremists.

"We will wait until nominations close and as is always the case we'll set our preferences and the full range of tickets." *[Scott Morrison, ABC TV, 20 March 2019]*

Other senior Coalition MPs are [openly calling for the Coalition to do preference deals with One Nation.](#)

In the recent Queensland state election the LNP preferred One Nation in 50 of the 58 seats where it ran candidates, and were crucial to the election of a One Nation MP.

Senator Anning is only in our Parliament because of Pauline Hanson and One Nation.

Right wing extremists who promote fear to stoke the flames of hate for their own political gain should have no place in our parliament.

That's why Labor will put Pauline Hanson, Fraser Anning and people like them at the bottom of our preference ticket.

That's where any decent mainstream party committed to a decent, tolerant, inclusive society would put them.

If Scott Morrison is serious about what he has been saying over the past few days he will join with Simon Birmingham and Labor in committing to putting Fraser Anning and Pauline Hanson at the bottom of his how to vote cards.

It is time for the Prime Minister to show the leadership the nation needs, to stand against hate speech, and to join with Simon Birmingham and Labor in committing to putting Fraser Anning, Pauline Hanson and right-wing extremists at the bottom of the Liberals' how to vote cards.

CITIZENSHIP

HARMONY DAY - ELIMINATE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION – Shorten/Burke

Australia is a community which celebrates our diversity and social cohesion. We come together with respect for each other, young and old, to stand in solidarity and peace.

Orange clothing is worn today to represent social cohesion and mutual respect - both integral parts of the Australian identity.

We are a vibrant nation of many cultures, faiths and communities bound together with threads of unity.

Our multicultural society is a patchwork of diverse backgrounds. And like a quilted patchwork blanket, each culture, while retaining its own unique traditions, is attached to another with threads that are strongest when we all unite on one front- respect for all people.

The best of Australian multiculturalism has always been about us finding common ground, bonding over our shared love of this country and our shared hope for the future.



This is what we value, when we value multiculturalism: parents raising children, friends coming together, neighbours looking out for one another. People volunteering, caring, people putting in and giving back.

Because what makes a good Australian is not measured by how your ancestors got here, or the number of generations they've been here. What makes a good Australian isn't determined by the amount of money you have in your bank account or the postcode you live in.

What makes a good Australian isn't the god you worship or the person you love. What makes a good Australian is what is in your heart.

What makes a good Australian is how you raise your children, whether you respect the laws of this country. What makes a good Australian is 'kindness in another's trouble and courage in your own'.

This is the powerful truth of our national success. It's a truth we need to hold on to and to assert, loudly and proudly, every time we hear someone trying to whip-up fear, or peddle hate speech.

As we celebrate Harmony Day, let us renew and strengthen our commitment to safeguard its message of respect and inclusiveness for all.

FIRST PEOPLE

NATIONAL CLOSE THE GAP DAY- Shorten/Dodson/Snowdon/McCarthy

On National Close the Gap Day, Labor joins the Close the Gap Campaign to celebrate the work of First Nations People and their communities to close the gap on life expectancy and other health outcomes.

For more than ten years the Closing the Gap Campaign has put an important spotlight on the vast health, disparities between First Nations peoples and the Australian population at large.

The Campaign has successfully influenced positive national policy outcomes, in which the Labor party is proud to have been part of.

Labor is committed to ensuring Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations have the primary role in delivering culturally appropriate and regionally specific Primary Health Care Services to for First Australians.

This year's report highlights "our health, our voice and our choice," reaffirming that when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to be involved in the design of the services they need, they are successful. Labor is committed to working with First Nations people in order to

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

successfully bridge the gap in life expectancy between First Nations people and all other Australians.

Labor is committed to ensuring First Nations people have ownership in the matters that affect them.

If elected, a Shorten Labor Government will move quickly to agree on a process with First Nations people to make the Voice a reality – including a pathway to a referendum. Labor supports a Voice. We support enshrining it in the Constitution. This is our first priority for Constitutional change.

First Nations peoples must have a say in the matters that affect their lives and policies must be co-designed with full free and prior informed consent. This is how we close the gap.

WORKERS

FULL TIME WORK DROPS, INSECURE WORK UP, LOW WAGE GROWTH-O'Connor

Under this Liberal Government, serious structural issues in the labour market are deepening, leaving Australians experiencing high rates of underemployment, increasing insecure work and stagnant wages growth.

The latest labour force figures released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics reveal a drop of over 7,000 full time jobs combined with high levels of underemployment.

While Labor welcomes the slight decrease in the unemployment rate, we remain concerned about a slowing economy, record low wage growth and very few job gains this month.

Of particular concern is the stubbornly high underemployment rate at 8.1 per cent. More than a million Australians remain underemployed. Combined with the unemployment rate of over 660,000, nearly 1.8 million Australians are looking for more work, but unable to find it.

Youth unemployment remains more than double the national average, with more than 240,000 young Australians unemployed.

Australians across the country continue to struggle to keep up with the cost of living because of insecure work and record low wages growth.

As Treasurer and now Prime Minister, Scott Morrison has presided over the lowest wages growth since records began, and yet he wants to further cut the wages of hard working Australians by cutting their penalty rates.

Under the Liberals everything is going up except for wages.

This government is so out of touch keeping wages low is a “deliberate design feature” of their economic plan. When it comes to secure jobs with decent wages, Australians know that they only party they can trust is Labor.

INVEST IN OUR AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE OFFICERS – Shorten/Clare O'Neil/Collins

A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$5 million in new mental health support services for the Australian Federal Police.

The men and women of the AFP are on the frontline of the fight against terrorists and organised crime. They deal with crime scenes, child exploitation material and are often posted to remote or isolated areas in Australia or abroad. They do an extraordinary job in challenging conditions.

Sixty six per cent of AFP employees will experience a potentially traumatic event at some stage during their career. But many struggle with these challenges alone.

In 2018, Labor chaired a Senate Inquiry into the role of Commonwealth, state and territory Governments in addressing the high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers. The report confirmed the pressures we know first responders, including AFP officers, can be under and the importance of access to early intervention mental health support services. All governments must seriously consider the recommendations put forward.

Labor believes we must do a better job of supporting these brave men and women. That is why, if elected, a Shorten Labor Government will invest \$5 million in additional mental health support services for the AFP.

While we welcome the AFP's recent efforts to improve its own mental health support services for its staff, we know that some AFP officers need and want outside support for mental health issues. If elected, Labor will work with the AFP, the AFP Association and experts to direct this funding to the best mental health support services available.

The AFP is under enormous pressure. According to the AFP Commissioner, referrals of drug matters have risen by nearly 300 percent in three years and victim-based crime matters have risen 200 percent. But instead of supporting our dedicated AFP officers to perform their critically important work, the Liberals have chosen to cut AFP funding and cut an extraordinary 500 staff.

We cannot expect our Australian Federal Police officers to look after us if we do not do the same for them. Labor is listening to AFP representatives, and is absolutely committed to supporting and protecting our brave Australian Federal Police officers.

LABOR'S SUBMISSION TO THE ANNUAL MINIMUM WAGE REVIEW – O'Connor

Labor's [submission](#) to the annual minimum wage review proposes a real increase to the minimum wage that recognises the cost of living pressures faced by some of our lowest paid workers at a time of record low wages growth.

The minimum wage is no longer a living wage. Too many Australians are experiencing years of wage stagnation, and an increase in everything except for their wages.

In our submission, Federal Labor has asked the panel to recognise when making its determination that:

- No Australian working full-time should be living in poverty.
- Everything is going up but people's wages.
- Since 2013 productivity has grown 4 times faster than wages.
- Over the past year company profits have grown 5 times faster than wages.
- International experience shows that increases larger than those of recent years can be sustained without costing jobs.
- Persistently low wages growth is posing a real threat to consumer demand and the broader economy.

Federal Labor has been arguing strongly from Opposition, since 2015, for increases in the National Minimum Wage. We accept the Panel is constrained by current legislative provisions, but we no longer have confidence that the current legislative framework has the capacity to deliver the wages growth that the lowest paid workers, and our economy, require.

It is unacceptable that an adult Australian in 2019 could work full time and yet still live below the poverty line.

The people that rely on the minimum wage and are counting on this decision are all around us:

- The people at the local pool who teach your children how to swim.
- The people holding your dog at the vet, comforting it when it's time for an injection.
- The people keeping your workplace clean, or picking up your glasses and wiping your table at the pub.
- The person who assists in feeding and bathing and caring for your elderly parent.

People who rely on the minimum wage are doing hard, unglamorous, unforgiving jobs. Their work often goes unseen and unnoticed by the rest of us.

Labor's submission takes into consideration the capacity of industry to pay, but there is a pressing need to restore the link between hard work and fair reward, and rebuild the idea that a fairly paid workforce is a more productive workforce in a more profitable business.

The evidence does not support the notion that responsible increases to the minimum wage result in job losses. Persistently low wages growth is posing a real threat to consumer demand and the broader economy.

Labor believes in a fair day's pay for a fair day's work and a living wage is fundamental to achieving that goal.

SOCIAL SERVICES

LIBERALS STILL FAILING UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE – O'Connor/Terri Butler

The Liberals' changes to employment services do nothing to fix the failing Youth Jobs PaTH "internships" program or Work for the Dole.

Only 3652 people who did a youth 'internship' obtained work following it.

That's against a target of 30,000 placements, and against a youth unemployment rate of 11.5%, more than double the general unemployment rate of 5%.

The youth unemployment rate means there's more than 250,000 young people who are looking for work but haven't got it.

And according to the government's own 2015 [report](#), Work for the Dole increases participants' employability by only 2%.

The Liberals' employment services are still failing employers, unemployed people, and the country.

Labor has been calling for reform to make mutual obligation more useful and we're glad the government has followed our lead.

Of course people receiving unemployment payments should have to look for work, but the current arrangements are just flooding employers' inboxes with applications being made just to tick a box, without helping people to get into a position where they can get and keep a job.

Labor will reserve our judgement on the new digital platform because it is hard to trust the government to deliver human services via technology after their robo-debt debacle.

The government must now say how it will reform Work for the Dole and its youth program, "PaTH", to make them safer, and more likely to get people into work.



MEDIA RELEASE

THE UNEMPLOYED - Cassandra Goldie CEO ACOSS

"Instead of getting real help to strengthen their skills and find a job, people looking for paid work in the current system face a bureaucratic, box-ticking exercise that threatens to cut off their income support payments and floods employers with unsuitable applications.

"We need to overhaul the employment services system and we welcome commitments from the Government today for long-overdue reform. However, we have a number of concerns, particularly about the reliance on automated compliance and digital platforms.

"The commitment to devote more resources to training, work experience and other help for people who are unemployed long-term is overdue and welcome. Australia spends less than half the OECD average on employment services, and has among the toughest income support compliance systems and lowest unemployment payments.

"We also welcome the commitment today to more flexible activity requirements, in place of a standardised requirement to apply for 20 jobs a month, regardless of whether jobs are available in the area, parenting responsibilities and disabilities.

"A big risk with the proposed online employment services system is that penalties for non-compliance could be automatically imposed without any human intervention. This can have unfair and incredibly damaging outcomes for people, as we've seen with Parents Next, and the Robodebt debacle.

"It's vital that the Government avoids creating a digital divide in employment services, by isolating those who can't access the internet or use online platforms," Dr Goldie said.

ACOSS Principal Adviser, Peter Davidson, who was a member of the Employment Services Expert Panel said:

"Today's announcement could herald a new beginning for employment services. It follows a commitment to reforms from the Labor Opposition and a year of comprehensive consultation by the Government with service users and community organisations. This close collaboration needs to continue to get these difficult and complex reforms right," Dr Davidson said.

ACOSS welcomes the promise of:

- more intensive help for people disadvantaged in the labour market, especially those unemployed long term. The employment fund available for this purpose should be topped up for each year of unemployment.
- lower caseloads (currently, case workers each work with 150 people on average)
- more quality training and better work experience, though the wasteful work for the dole scheme remains
- people able to take more control of their job search, in place of the inflexible 20- job-applications-a-month requirement
- the prospect of better quality control through licensing of employment services. In most other human services, that means an independent quality assurance agency and there should be one in employment services.
- ACOSS warns about the following risks of the new model:

- the harshness of automated digital compliance where people can lose their payments without any human intervention, as we've seen with Parents Next, and the notorious Robodebt system
- a digital divide in employment services for those who can't access the internet or use online platforms
- that the standard '20 jobs' requirement could be replaced with more intrusive monitoring of activity and behaviour that goes well beyond what people need to do to improve their prospects of paid employment

LNP MPs DISHONEST ABOUT CASUAL LEGISLATION – O'Connor/Watt

The Liberal National Government will say and do anything to try and win votes, including dishonestly claiming they support workers.



Both Queensland Nationals, [Senator Canavan](#) and [George Christensen](#), have posted false and misleading claims on Facebook that they have legislated to protect casual workers and that workers can now convert to permanent employment after 12 months work. Neither are true. The first claim is patently untrue because nothing has passed the parliament.

Secondly, in a Senate committee hearing today examining the Fair Work Amendment (Right to Request Casual Conversion) Bill, the Department of Jobs and Small Business officials exposed Christensen's claim that workers can now easily convert as completely wrong:

Senator Watt: "I've seen some commentary about this bill since it was first introduced, including a claim that the government is changing the law so that regular casual workers become permanent workers after 12 months of employment. Is that correct, does this bill do that?"

Department: "Ah, no, so it opens up the conversation for a right to request but it certainly doesn't provide an automatic right to convert after a period of time, whether it be 12 months or something else."

In further questioning of the Department:

Senator Watt: "So, OK, it's not correct that the law is being changed so that regular casual workers become permanent workers after 12 months of employment?"

Department: "No, it's a right to request."

For over five years this government has denied there is a problem with casualisation and precarious work.

Their only plan is to cut penalty rates and keep wages low, which the Finance Minister recently claimed is a "deliberate design feature".

If the Liberal government cared about precarious employment they would join Labor and support legislating a clearer definition of casual.



MEDIA RELEASE

**NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR MORE TAX CUTS:
NOW IS THE TIME TO BOOST NEWSTART AND
MINIMUM WAGES**

Unlike tax cuts, raising Newstart and the minimum wage will effectively reduce poverty and boost the economy, argues The Australian Council of Social Service's [submission](#) to the Fair Work Commission on the minimum wage.

CEO of the Australian Council of Social Service, Cassandra Goldie, said: "Instead of handing out tax cuts as misguided election sweeteners, the government should take real action to tackle poverty and strengthen the economy.

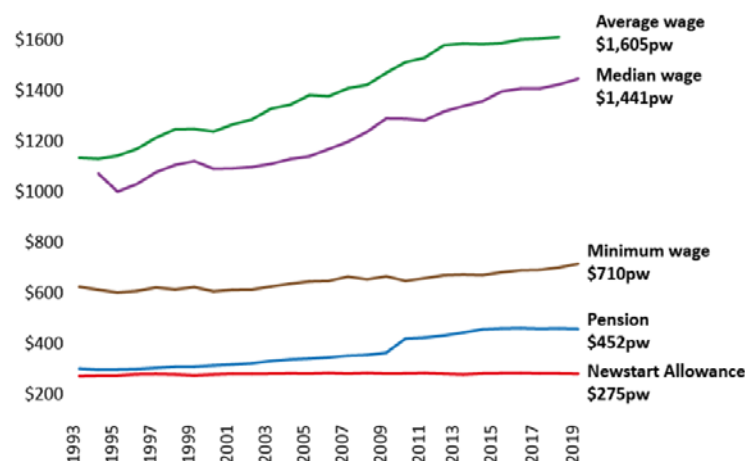
"Both an urgent \$75 per week rise in Newstart and a substantial rise in minimum wages are the fundamental steps we must take in any serious effort to reducing poverty.

"People on the lowest incomes – including Newstart and minimum wages – must spend the money they receive to cover the very basics like food and rent, so boosting their incomes is a far more effective way to bolster economic growth than more tax cuts.

"A rise in Newstart would particularly benefit businesses in the regions struggling the most with high unemployment.

"Increasing Newstart and the minimum wage would increase consumer spending, creating new jobs; while at the same time, a stronger Newstart would give people the support they need to get through tough times and into these jobs.

"One in six children live in poverty in our wealthy country and in order to reduce child poverty we need to reverse government funding cuts to family payments and expressly consider these cuts in the setting of the minimum wage.



"In the past decade, more than \$12 billion has been cut from payments for individuals and families with low incomes, including by dumping all single parent families from the single parent payment on to the low Newstart Allowance once their youngest child turns eight.

"We need government and business to both play their part to for people on the lowest 40% of incomes - both people relying on income support and wage earners, who in reality are often the same people at different stages of life, sometimes week to week,"

"We are the richest country in the world and no one should live in poverty, whether they have paid work or not. This requires action from both government and business," Dr Goldie said.

Wages, age pension and Newstart - 1993-2

BACKGROUND: Wages, age pension and Newstart - 1993-2019

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

Twenty-five years ago, when Newstart Allowance was last increased, the minimum wage was around 60% of the median fulltime wage and Newstart Allowance was 25% of the minimum wage (before tax).

Up to the GFC in 2008, most incomes grew strongly, especially corporate profits. There was also a dramatic rise in housing costs. Yet Newstart and minimum wages (two of the main incomes of the lowest 40% of households by income) have barely grown above inflation.

In 2018, the minimum wage was just 49% of the median fulltime wage (a relative decline of 18%). Having been frozen in real terms since 1994, Newstart Allowance fell behind even further (by 24%), to 19% of the median wage.

Although this decline in the lowest incomes was partly compensated by lower unemployment and more paid working hours, those who lacked the opportunity to obtain employment or more working hours fell behind the rest of the community, increasing poverty and inequality.

PUBLIC SERVICE

LABOR WELCOMES RELEASE OF APS REVIEW PRIORITIES – Chalmers

Federal Labor welcomes the contribution made today by David Thodey, the chair of the independent Australian Public Service Review, in which he outlined the broad priorities for change within the public service.

Mr Thodey raised important issues for the review to consider further, including around culture, capability, and internal and external partnerships.

Our hope for the review is that it will help ensure Australians have the kind of public service they need and deserve – one that can properly deliver the services they rely on, offers frank and fearless advice to Government, and provides value for money.

Labor thanks Mr Thodey and his review panel for the opportunity to engage over recent months on some of the issues raised today and we look forward to the release of the final report.

In the interim, we encourage the Government to adopt Labor's policies to improve the public service, including abolishing the arbitrary average staffing level (ASL) cap, reining in wasteful spending on contractors and consultants, not proceeding with the remaining 0.5 per cent additional efficiency dividend next financial year, adding 1200 new permanent and full-time Department of Human Services staff, and reducing spending on travel across the public service.

ENVIRONMENT

LATEST LIBERAL CLIMATE SCARE CAMPAIGN – Mark Butler

Labor utterly rejects the latest Liberal attempt at a climate change scare campaign.

This rubbish modelling isn't an analysis of Labor policy, and their conclusions about the impacts of our policy are not accurate.

For example:

- The report assumed storage or firming costs for renewable energy are as high as \$200/MWh, when we're already seeing Snowy offering firmed renewable contracts at \$70/MWh, and these costs are only expected to fall over time.
- The report makes no mention of the huge carbon abatement potential on the land, through policies like the Carbon Farming initiative introduced by the last Labor Government.

This is just another climate change fear campaign, led by the Liberals and Mr Fisher, who Prime Minister Abbott appointed to his review to end the Renewable Energy Target, who has a long record of arguing against climate action, and believes *"there is nothing we can do alone that will have a material impact on the global climate."*

This modelling does not take into account the impact of the Coalition's chaotic energy policy, which experts and industry agree will stall investment in generation and lead to higher prices.

We've seen these fear campaigns claim Whyalla would be wiped off the map, and lamb roasts will cost \$100. Now we have this prediction of doom and gloom. They simply aren't credible.

Renewable energy plus storage is the cheapest source of new energy. Labor's plan for 50 per cent of electricity from renewables by 2030 is good for jobs, good for the economy and good for the environment.

Climate Change is a growing risk not only to future generations, but to the economy today. Only Labor will take climate change seriously and deliver the policies needed to ensure a prosperous future for all Australians.

REGIONAL

BETTER CARE FOR STROKE VICTIMS UNDER LABOR – Shorten/Catherine King

Australians living in regional Australia will get 24/7 access to the country's best stroke specialists under a Shorten Labor Government plan that will rollout state-of-the-art technology to save lives.

Every year, 56,000 Australians have a stroke - one every nine minutes.

People in regional and rural areas are almost 20 per cent more likely to suffer a stroke.

People in regional and rural Australia are also more likely to die or be left with serious disability from a stroke because most stroke specialists and units are in the cities, denying country Australians access to life-saving treatments to dissolve and remove clots.

Labor will invest \$11.9 million to bridge this deadly gap by building a **National Telestroke Network**.

This network will link 41 regional and rural emergency departments to a roster of metropolitan stroke specialists via cutting edge telehealth technology.

These specialists will provide around-the-clock support to local clinicians by examining patients, reviewing CT brain imaging and providing diagnosis and treatment advice.

This will speed up access to thrombolysis – clot-dissolving medicine that will be available in all 41 hospitals and must be administered within 4.5 hours.

This is a policy that will save and improve lives. It is part of Labor's commitment to improving the health of the seven million Australians who live outside metropolitan areas.

Health outcomes shouldn't be determined by your postcode - but all too often they are.

People in country Australia have a lower life expectancy – 3.4 years lower for men and 2 years lower for women. As well as strokes, they are

more likely to suffer cardiovascular disease, diabetes, eye disease and lung cancer. They are less likely to see a doctor, specialist or dentist when they need to, or to have private health insurance.

The National Telestroke Network will connect to and build upon Victoria's Stroke Telemedicine program, which has already linked 17 regional and rural hospitals to metropolitan specialists.

Other states have started trialling similar models of care but federal funding is needed to maintain and expand these pilot programs.

Labor's investment will also include \$3 million for the Australian Stroke Clinical Registry to ensure the network's stroke data is captured and used, and \$600,000 for 'FAST' - Face, Arms, Speech, Time - community education programs.

The National Telestroke Network proposal was developed by the Stroke

Foundation and has been endorsed by the Australian Stroke Coalition, which includes more than 20 stakeholder groups.

It will be funded through Labor's \$2.8 Better Hospitals Fund.

The Liberals have cut billions of dollars from public hospitals. As Treasurer, Scott Morrison cut funding from health while trying to give a \$80 billion tax handout to big business, including \$17 billion to the big banks.

The Australian people are sick of the cuts. They want investment in their hospitals.

Labor will reverse the Liberals cuts with the Better Hospitals Fund by restoring core funding, building new wards and facilities, and reducing elective surgery and emergency department wait times.

Access to health should be determined by your Medicare card, not your credit card. Only Bill Shorten and Labor will fight for every Australian to have access to the quality care they need and deserve.



HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

COALITION INACTION ON HOUSING IS FAILING YOUNG AUSTRALIANS – Cameron

After almost six years of policy inaction and social housing cuts, vulnerable young Australians are bearing the brunt of the Liberals' affordable housing crisis.

The [National Youth Homelessness Conference 2019](#) on in Melbourne today and tomorrow will hear calls for more Federal Government funding for short-term, transitional and long-term housing for young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Children and young people now make up almost half the 288,000 people receiving specialist homelessness services support.

Low wages, high rents and a massive shortage of affordable and social housing have conspired against young people who are at the very bottom of the housing market.

Further exacerbating the crisis, the Coalition cut \$44 million a year from crisis accommodation for young people and women fleeing family violence.

If elected, Labor will invest \$88 million through a new Safe Housing Fund to increase crisis and transitional housing options for young people and women.

Labor will also build [250,000 new affordable homes](#) to address the estimated [520,000 shortfall of affordable rental properties](#) across Australia.

Under Labor's plan, young people would be able to rent an affordable home at 20 per cent below the market rate close to where they work or study.

[Recent reports](#) that Melbourne slumlords were pocketing millions of dollars of taxpayers money for filthy and unsafe motels to house young people is further proof of the Liberals' abject failure on housing policy.

The Liberals have no plan to invest in the supply of affordable and social housing.

Their only policy is to maintain the world's most generous tax concessions for wealthy investors and property speculators at the expense of renters, first-home buyers and people at risk of homelessness

HEALTH

LABOR'S PLAN TO BUILD BETTER HOSPITALS – Shorten/Catherine King

A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$1 billion on vital upgrades to Australia's public hospitals – building new wards with more beds, upgrading emergency departments and theatres, and establishing new palliative care and mental health facilities.

Our doctors, nurses and hospital staff do an amazing job, but we know there are hospital facilities across the country that are aging and in dire need of a revamp to ensure patients get the best care possible.

At a time when everything is going up except people's wages, soaring health care costs under the Liberals are putting more strain on the family budget - and more strain on our public hospitals. Out-of-pocket GP costs have increased by 25%, specialist costs by almost 40% and private health insurance premiums by 30%.

1.3 million Australians skip getting basic health care because of cost - and this puts extra pressure on our public hospitals.

That's why Labor will invest an additional \$1 billion upgrading hospitals across the country, with every state and territory to benefit from these targeted investments that will ensure patients can access modern and safe health services, and that doctors and nurses have the tools they need to deliver the best possible care.



We are already partnering with state and territory governments to identify projects that will make a tangible difference to the lives of Australians – whether they're giving birth, undergoing essential surgery, waiting for emergency treatment or reaching the end of their lives.

Labor's \$1 billion investment will be flexible to meet the needs of individual hospitals – in some cases, this will mean rebuilding and expanding existing facilities so they can cater for more patients, in other cases it will mean the construction of brand new units to meet the health needs of a community.

From downtown Sydney to regional WA, from rural Tasmania to Far North Queensland, from inner Melbourne to regional South Australia and the Northern Territory: Labor will ensure more Australians can access essential health services close to home so they don't need to travel to the next town or city.

This investment blitz is a key part of Labor's Fair Go Action Plan to improve our public hospitals and strengthen Medicare.

We can afford to spend more on health care because we've made the tough decisions to make multinationals pay their fair share and close unfair tax loopholes.

This \$1 billion worth of capital investments will come on top of our commitment to restore the core public hospital funding cut by the Liberals.

A Shorten Labor Government will always invest more on health and hospital services than the Liberals.

The Liberals have an appalling record on health funding, inflicting cut after cut after cut.

That's why Australians today are paying more than ever to see the doctor, and why people are languishing longer than ever in emergency departments and on elective surgery waiting lists.

As Treasurer, Scott Morrison cut from health and hospitals in every Budget he delivered.

He cut \$715 million from hospitals under the current 2017 to 2020 funding agreement with the states. And now he's trying to lock in even bigger cuts for the next five years. Only Labor is promising a better deal.

Since becoming Prime Minister, Morrison's sought to cut even more from hospitals and has refused to lift the six-year Medicare rebate freeze. Labor knows there's nothing more important than your health – that's why we will always fight for better health care and why only Labor can be trusted to fix Australia's hospitals.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

LABOR WILL GIVE AUSTRALIANS ALTERNATIVES TO PAYDAY LOANS

Shorten/McAllister/O'Neil/ Madeleine King

A Shorten Labor Government will provide \$60 million from the Banking Fairness Fund to give vulnerable Australians an alternative to dodgy payday lenders, doubling the funding for not-for-profit microfinance programs across the country.

Australians facing severe financial hardship are often locked out of mainstream financial products and unable to access affordable credit in times of crisis, like when the car breaks down or when the fridge stops working. These families have little alternative but to turn to high cost fringe credit products such as pay day loans or consumer leases.

Though the government first accepted the recommendations of the small amount credit contract review in 2016, they have failed to legislate the vital reforms to protect Australian consumers. It has now been 1066 days since the small amount credit contracts review's final report. Since then more than 800,000 vulnerable Australian consumers have accessed these flawed loans, plunging them into spirals of debt.

The \$60 million investment from Labor's Banking Fairness Fund - \$15 million a year for four years - will expand programs run by Good Shepherd Microfinance so that low-income Australians have greater access to affordable loans.

This funding boost will open up microfinance to 307,000 new clients delivering up to 76,800 new low cost loans to Australians in financial hardship each year.

Harmful financial products are impacting on the families that can least afford it. It is estimated that one in five of the poorest Australians used pay day loans or other high cost forms of credit – substantially higher than any other group of Australians. [\[1\]](#)

Labor's plan to promote fair and affordable loans could see up to 173,880 people diverted from harmful financial products provided by fringe lenders, such as pay day loans or consumer leases.

Labor will make sure that Australians in financial hardship have affordable and safe financial options when life throws up unexpected difficulties.

GoodShepherd Microfinance's No Interest Loans Scheme (NILs) and the StepUP loans scheme offer a financial life line to individuals who might otherwise turn to high-interest credit products.

Earlier this year, Senate Inquiry Credit and financial services targeted at Australians at risk of financial hardship chaired by Senator McAllister recommended that these programs be expanded.

Expanding access to affordable financial products is a part of Labor's plan to support those in financial hardship and restore fairness to financial services.

Only Labor can be trusted to clean up the banks and stand up to the top end of town. Scott Morrison and the Liberals voted against the Banking Royal Commission 26 times, and they wanted to give the big banks a \$17 billion tax handout.

Labor called for a Banking Royal Commission, Labor fought for a Banking Royal Commission, and Labor will ensure that victims of bank misconduct have the support they need to fight for their rights.

VETERANS

VETERANS' MINISTER MUST EXPLAIN GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE – Rishworth

Reports of an increase in wait times to the crisis line for our veterans and ex-service personnel raises serious concerns.

All veterans, ex-service personnel and their families should have access to the helpline 24 hours a day - this is not debatable.

Whilst the department has insisted that call times have since improved, increased call waiting should never have happened in the first place.

Questions remain: Why wasn't this service functioning properly? Were staff and funding cuts to this service behind these increased wait times? And importantly; how many calls from veterans went unanswered?

The Minister must explain what happened to allow these increases to happen under his government's watch.

It is not good enough to simply say that this issue has since been rectified when it is the mental health and wellbeing of our veterans, ex-service personnel and their families.

OVER THREE MONTHS LATER AND THE GOVERNMENT FINALLY RESPONDS TO INQUIRY – Rishworth

Labor notes the government's much delayed response into the Senate Inquiry into Use of the Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force.

Labor established this Inquiry to give members of the serving and ex-service community a transparent and thorough investigation into the concerns of the use of Quinoline anti-malarial drugs in the ADF.

Of the recommendations made by the Inquiry, the government has agreed to 12 recommendations in full and two recommendations in principle.

Labor welcomes the government's belated decision to follow Labor's lead on this issue and its commitment of additional funding as a direct result of this Inquiry.

RIP



This week the sad news that at age 78 legendary art curator Edmund Capon passed away in London from leukaemia.

In 1978, he catapulted from being an assistant keeper in the far eastern department of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London to the top job in Sydney, where he remained for 33 years.

Famous for wearing colourful odd socks Capon was erudite, charming and one of the best gallery managers. He pioneered new ways of funding exhibitions and the collection driven by the passionate belief that art should be free – so everybody could enjoy it and learn from it.

"Edmund sensed the potential of the Gallery to become one of Australia's leading art museums, with a global reputation for scholarship, exciting exhibitions and innovative programs," said Wayne Tunnicliffe, the AGNSW's head curator of Australian art.

"He brought immense focus, knowledge, tenacity and charm to his new role, which required agility on all fronts to lead this transformation.

Capon purchased Picasso's *Nude in a Rocking Chair* for a reported \$300,000 in 1981.

The acquisition depleted the gallery's meagre acquisition funds spurring Mr Capon to establish a foundation to purchase future artworks.

That plan subsequently led to numerous spectacular acquisitions, chiefly in 2008 Paul Cezanne's *Banks of the Marne* for \$16 million from the Gallery's largest fundraising campaign to that date.

The purchase at auction of Sidney Nolan's *Ned Kelly painting First-class Marksman* for \$5.6 million in 2010 set a new high watermark for Australian art at auction — it remains unbroken.

He was loved by his staff, embraced by Sydney society and respected by the media.

Capon is survived by his wife Joanna, their children and grand-children.

A remarkable and good man we were lucky to have.

This newsletter includes an update on institutions and the National Redress Scheme.

For more information or to find support services, go to the [National Redress Scheme website](#) or call 1800 737 377 Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm (local time), excluding public holidays.

**National
Redress Scheme**
For people who have experienced
institutional child sexual abuse

LATEST NEWS

If you cannot find the name of the institution you are looking for, it may mean the institution is still working through steps to join, or it may not yet have agreed to join the Scheme.

Update to Redress Support Services

The government announced an additional five additional grants being offered to establish Redress Support Services. The five additional services are expected to be providing support from April 2019. The Redress Support Service providers receiving an additional grant are:

Cape York Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care Advisory Association

Survivors and Mates Support Network (SAMSN)

Blue Knot Foundation.

Where do I get support?

Redress Support Services are available to help people understand the Scheme, provide emotional support and guide people through the application process. A list of support services is available on the [website](#).

Those who need immediate emotional support can contact:

- [Beyond Blue](#) 1300 224 636
- [Lifeline](#) 13 11 14
- [1800 Respect](#) 1800 737 732
- [Suicide Call Back Service](#) 1300 659 467
- [Mensline](#) 1300 78 99 78
- In an emergency call Triple Zero (000)

Find out more

To find out more, you can call the National Redress Scheme on 1800 737 377 Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm (local time), excluding public holidays. You can also visit the website at www.nationalredress.gov.au.



Sign up to join the Stop TAFE Cuts campaign.

Our TAFE manifesto is a blueprint which outlines a path to fixing Australia's TAFE system.

[READ THE TAFE MANIFESTO](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY ...

Tell the Government why YOUNG people shouldn't be pushed into aged care

#EveryStoryMatters

We can help tell your story to the Royal Commission into Aged Care

Are you younger than 65 years old and... live in a nursing home?

Are currently living in hospital or rehab?

Have lived in a nursing home at some stage in the past 5 years?

At some time in the past 3 years, have been told that you might have to live in a nursing home, but didn't end up having to?

Or do you have a family member or someone you care about in one of these situations?

If so, you have an important story that the Royal Commission into Aged Care needs to hear.

We can help you tell your story

We are holding half-day workshops in many places around Australia. At the workshops, we will help you work out what you want to say, and help you write it for the Royal Commission.

Workshops will be conducted in a one-to-one discussion format with places limited to 6 per workshop. At the end of the workshop, you will have finished a submission for the Royal Commission. Refreshments will be provided.

If required, we will pay your travel and support costs.

QUEENSLAND ROYAL COMMISSION HEARINGS

Toowoomba: 2 April

Brisbane: 3 April

Cairns: 5 April

DONATE NOW TO HELP



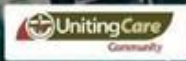
AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
REDCROSS.ORG.AU/DISASTER



THE SALVATION ARMY
13 SALVOS (13 72 58)
SALVOS.ORG.AU (SELECT 'DISASTER RELIEF')



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND
(07) 3010 1002
VINNIES.ORG.AU/DONATE



UNITINGCARE COMMUNITY
1800 001 953
UCCOMMUNITY.ORG.AU/DISASTER-RELIEF

GIVIT

WWW.GIVIT.ORG.AU

Change for Palestine



**SATURDAY
6TH APRIL
6:30PM**

DINNER SERVED AT 7:00PM SHARP

Venue
**ISLAMIC COLLEGE
OF BRISBANE**

**\$60 PER TICKET OR
\$550 FOR TABLE OF 10**

A fundraising dinner
(with 100% of proceeds)
to support Palestinian
advocacy in Australia &
Livelihood support of
Palestinians through
education.

Contact

David Forde
0413 874 008

Yusuf Khatree
0401 246 228

Riyad Ally
0434 984 520

Fawzia Batty
0405 035 786

Bank Details

MCF
BSB: 124 155
A/C: 2089 7392
REF: <NAME> APAN



MAKES SENSE.

Cent Auction Fundraiser.



Sunday 31 March 2019
Doors open 12 noon for
a 1 p.m. start.

\$5 ENTRY
FREE TEA & COFFEE
\$1 TICKET SHEETS
BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Burnie Brae Hall
60 Kuran Street, Chermside
4032

It's on again! Be Uplifted Inc is
hosting our fun and very
successful Cent Auction
fundraiser.

ORGANISER Kim 0422 072 068

TICKETS <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/cent-auction-fundraiser-tickets-559510521032068>



ABN 49 270 645 534

Current Senate Inquiries

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

- **New** [Social Security \(Administration\) Amendment \(Income Management and Cashless Welfare\) Bill 2019](#)

Community Affairs References Committee

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

Economics Legislation Committee

- **New** [Australian Business Securitisation Fund Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Banking System Reform \(Separation of Banks\) Bill 2019](#)
- **New** [Commonwealth Registers Bill 2019 and 4 related bills \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Treasury Laws Amendment \(2019 Measures No. 1\) Bill 2019 and the Excise Tariff Amendment \(Supporting Craft Brewers\) Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Treasury Laws Amendment \(2019 Petroleum Resource Rent Tax Reforms No. 1\) Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Combating Illegal Phoenixing\) Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Consumer Data Right\) Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australia Fund Bill 2018](#)
- [Lower Tax Bill 2018](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Prohibiting Energy Market Misconduct\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)

Economics References Committee

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

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

- **New** [Fair Work Amendment \(Right to Request Casual Conversion\) Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

- **New** [Environment Legislation Amendment \(Protecting Dugongs and Turtles\) Bill 2019](#)
- **New** [Water Amendment \(Purchase Limit Repeal\) Bill 2019](#)

Environment and Communications References Committee

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

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

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

- **New** [Australian Veterans' Recognition \(Putting Veterans and their Families First\) Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)
- **New** [Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Amendment \(Support for Infrastructure Financing\) Bill 2019 \[Provisions\]](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

- **New** [Combatting Child Sexual Exploitation Legislation Amendment Bill 2019](#)
- [Migration Amendment \(Streamlining Visa Processing\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [National Integrity Commission Bill 2018 \[Provisions\], National Integrity \(Parliamentary Standards\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\], and National Integrity Commission Bill 2018 \(No. 2\)](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Censorship\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Insult and Offend\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Security\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment \(Strengthening the Commitments for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures\) Bill 2018](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee

- **New** [Resolution of disputes with financial service providers within the justice system](#)
- [The effectiveness of the current temporary skilled visa system in targeting genuine skills shortages](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

- **New** [Performance of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority](#)
- **New** [Export Control Amendment \(Banning Cotton Exports to Ensure Water Security\) Bill 2019](#)
- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

- **New** [The feasibility of a National Horse Traceability Register for all horses](#)
- [The provision of rescue, firefighting and emergency response at Australian airports](#)
- [The policy, regulatory, taxation, administrative and funding priorities for Australian shipping](#)
- [The operation, regulation and funding of air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities](#)

Select Committee into Fair Dinkum Power

- [Fair Dinkum Power](#)

Select Committee on Electric Vehicles

- [Electric Vehicles](#)

Standing Committee of Privileges

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

Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances

- [Parliamentary Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation](#)