



Senator Claire Moore

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THIS WEEK:

In 2005, nine young Australians were arrested , charged and sentenced for attempting to smuggle 8.3 kg of heroin out of Bali. There was extensive coverage of the arrest, and the seesawing court and appeal processes in Indonesia, with startling vision of the eight men and one woman paraded through re-enactments of the arrests at the airport, incongruously dressed in very distinctive holiday shirts , under which the heroin was concealed. There was no doubt that the group was guilty, and subsequently it was revealed that the arrests were the result of information provided by the Australian Federal Police.

The penalty for drug smuggling in Indonesia is death, and over the next few years, through court hearings and appeals, the eight men faced the death sentence, Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran were executed in 2015, and the others live with the reality that the system can reverse their current life sentences back to the death penalty at any time.

This week, the only woman charged, Renae Lawrence was released and returned to Australia, her twenty year sentence, reduced to thirteen for good behaviour.

Again, the media has focussed on the tragic experiences of these Australians, raising the continuing questions about seriousness of the crime, the penalties, the role of the Australian Federal police providing information from concerned family to the Indonesian government which led to the execution of two young men and what efforts have been made by our Government to raise the return of the remaining prisoners to Australia.

This is tragic for the group of young people who made a terrible mistake in breaking Indonesian law, their families and friends. It will confront Australians around the horrors of the death penalty and real issues of justice.

Of the Bali Nine, five men remain in Indonesian prisons, Scott Rush, Michael Czuga, Matthew Norman, Si Yi Chen and Matthew Stephens. Tan Duc Thank Nguyen died of cancer earlier this year.

For them, serving life sentences, there is no remission...is this what we support?

SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore
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CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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WHAT'S BEING SAID ...



ENERGY POLICY - BUTLER- ABC TV NEWS 24 BREAKFAST

"What we're doing is announcing \$200 million in subsidies of \$2000 for up to 100,000 households. This would triple the number of household batteries that are currently in the system, well on our way, as you said, to our target of one million batteries by 2025. This will have an enormous benefit obviously to households who are able to install the batteries – a power price reduction as much as 90 per cent according to the industry."

ENERGY POLICY - SHORTEN – TODAY SHOW

"The experts say that if you have batteries and the solar panels you can see savings of between 60 and even up to 90 per cent. These numbers sound unreal, but that's where the future is. So we want to help people be able to get batteries and we want to start the renewables revolution for lower prices. Renewable energy plus storage equals reliable cheap energy."

ENERGY POLICY - BUTLER- ABC TV NEWS 24 BREAKFAST

"We're pretty much the only advanced major economy where carbon pollution is rising, after coming down more than 10 per cent under the last Labor government. So we do need policies in place across the economy, in transport, in LNG as Woodside has said, in manufacturing and other sectors of the economy as well."

RENEWABLE ENERGY - BUTLER – SYDNEY UTS

"The Australia Institute has confirmed that a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030 will see up to 60,000 jobs every year in the renewable energy industry, in the construction, in the installation of renewable energy projects, and if we get our settings right, we'll put in place investor confidence in manufacturing opportunities to ensure that those projects as far as possible are built with Australian content, supporting Australian manufacturing as well."

NEG – BUTLER- SKY NEWS

"We're adopting it because it was clearly regarded by every business group in the country as the last best option to get bi-partisanship."

THE NEG - BUTLER- ABC RN BREAKFAST

"Everyone says that the best way to deal with the energy crisis that has emerged under this government is a bipartisan solution and the best model on the table is the National Energy Guarantee. I think the government, Scott Morrison, made a colossal mistake walking away from that – their own modelling said that walking away from the National Energy Guarantee would start to force prices up and we're already seeing that in the futures market. Prices for next year are forecast to be 40 per cent higher than they were when the NEG was on the table 75 per cent of our existing coal and gas generators are currently operating beyond their design life – they are going to shut in coming years, and we need a plan to build new kit, and we currently don't have it."

IMMIGRATION - SHORTEN – TODAY SHOW

"The current Prime Minister says that he will lower the cap from 190,000 to 160,000. Miraculously, that is what permanent migration is - it's 160,000. So, we're not going to have a big argument with them about that."

IMMIGRATION - SHORTEN – TODAY SHOW

"The real missing part of the story is there are 1.6 million people temporarily in Australia with visas that give them work rights. You can't just look at permanent migration without discussion about the fact that we're importing a whole lot of temporary labour to do jobs when Australians can do that work."

IMMIGRATION - SHORTEN – TODAY SHOW

"This whole population debate is borne out of frustration of congestion in our big cities. If you want to fix congestion, don't cut funding to schools so you don't have overcrowded schools, don't cut funding to hospitals so you don't have overcrowded hospitals and invest in public transport."

MOSLEM DIALOGUE - CLARE- SKY NEWS

"Nothing beats dialogue. If you've got a difference of opinion then tell the person face to face but never walk away from an opportunity to talk to the Prime Minister of Australia about the issues that you've got. And so if people have decided to boycott it I think that's a mistake. Take the opportunity and tell the Prime Minister what you think."

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC STATEMENT - PLIBERSEK- ABC RN DRIVE

"I think it's a pretty underwhelming statement to be honest and I'm not sure that you could really call it the first. When Labor was in Government we had a Women's Budget Statement every year and this Government discontinued that practice."

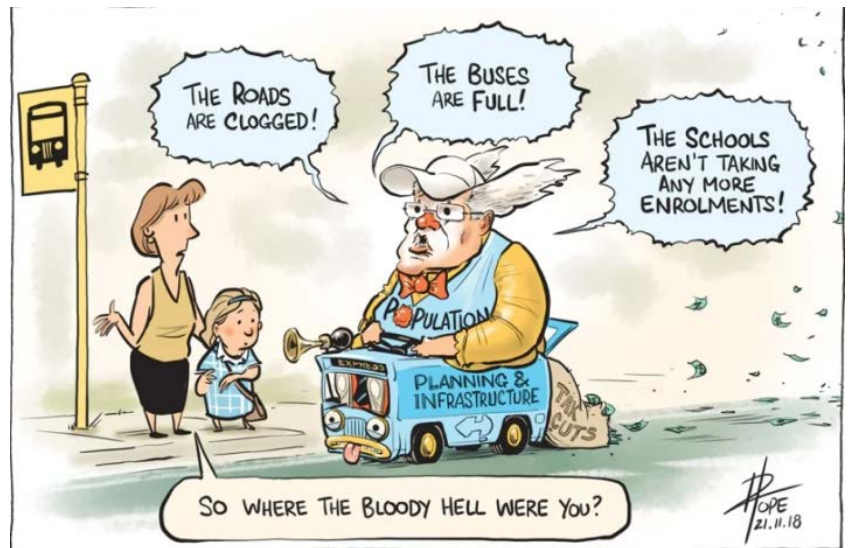
This is a Government that has in the past called working mothers trying to take their paid parental leave "rorters" and "double dippers". They tried five times to slash paid parental leave and now they're talking about flexibility."

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS - CLARE- SKY NEWS

"Parliament should have a better idea about what's in these agreements before they're signed. Industry should have a bigger role as well. We want to take the US model where companies and unions and civil society groups are accredited to look at the draft text and provide feedback as well. We think they should be independently economically modelled."

INDIAN TRADE - CLARE- SKY NEWS

"Modi said that he needs to train up about 122 million Indians in vocational skills between now and 2022. Their own version of the TAFE system will only train up about 7 million a year. So their own system will only train up about 30 million he needs to train up another 122 million. Now that tells you there's a great opportunity for Australian vocational providers, organisations like TAFE."



EX- LABOR PRESIDENT WARREN MUNDINE TO RUN FOR LIBERALS -SHORTEN – SYDNEY UTS

"I guess anyone's got a right to try and get into Parliament by whatever means. When he couldn't get a seat in the Labor Party, he's looking elsewhere. I guess that's his democratic right."

"I think the real issue though is that there's currently a Liberal member in Gilmore. The Liberal Party is divided. Yet again, another Liberal woman is going to be sacrificed by the powerbrokers of the Liberal Party."

YOUTH INVESTMENT - CHALMERS- BROWNS PLAINS (BRISBANE)

"A Labor Government under Bill Shorten and Tanya Plibersek will invest \$8 million in new research and data and services for young people and their parents here in this community, based in Griffith University Logan Campus. We'll fund a \$3 million Regional Innovation Data Lab to better research and share information about attacking challenges that exist in disadvantaged communities, in particular. And we'll invest \$5 million in a Griffith Centre for Strong Foundations, which is all about ensuring that we get the first 1000 days of a young Australian's life exactly right."

TAX CLINICS - LEIGH - 6PR PERTH

"Labor policy of free tax clinics, building on some great work that Annette Morgan and her team's been doing at Curtin University. They're providing tax help for low income individuals who are often struggling with disputes with the tax office or complicated tax affairs. It's a great way of helping people who are really not sure how to make their way through the tax system get the help they need. Millionaires and multinationals can afford to pay high priced accountants, but for many low income people caught up in problems with tax, they don't know where else to turn."

VETERANS-RISHWORTH – ABC 612 DRIVE

"If Labor is elected at the next federal election we will commit \$1 million to assist with the refurbishment and fit out of a Veterans Recovery Centre in the Ipswich area."

NEGATIVE GEARING - CHAMPION - SKY NEWS

"The important thing is what does the economic modelling tell us? The Grattan Institute, the McKell Institute and Treasury have all modelled this and we know that the effects are relatively benign on the property investment front. All this simply means is that it gives a fair go to new home buyers; it grandfathers existing negatively geared investments."

ASBESTOS WEEK - O'CONNOR – PERTH

"It's important to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Asbestos Awareness Week, and pay tribute to those people that have been working tirelessly to either campaign for more support for victims of industrial diseases, asbestos related industrial diseases. Also, pay tribute to those who led the way."

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

*"Poor old Malcolm Turnbull, what did he ever do to the Liberal Party except give them \$1.75 million?" – Bill Shorten
commenting on Liberal branch call for Turnbull to be kicked out of the Liberal party.*

*"This is about as disappointing as the year I got bathroom scales for Christmas."
-Tanya Plibersek commenting on the Government's Women's Economic Statement*

"The world is moving on from these tired scare campaigns. It's time the Liberal Party did" - Mark Butler

"Renewable energy plus storage equals reliable cheap energy." - Bill Shorten

"Australians are bewildered that for five years, they've had a government who simply can't make a decision on climate change and energy." – Bill Shorten

*"I don't think there is any figure which stands out more than the fact that by 2050, on current rates, the plastic in the ocean is going to weigh more than the fish in the ocean. That's got to be a wakeup call for everybody."
- Tony Burke commenting on the latest McKell Institute report on Marine Litter.*

*"The same policy breakdown that has occurred in other areas of neoliberal policymaking is now occurring on immigration. It's generating the same response as in other areas. And it has the same causes. Rinse, repeat."
Bernard Keane (Crikey)*

"So I don't see that this is anything other than a Seinfeld announcement. It's about nothing." – Anthony Albanese

"Cutting permanent migration by 30,000, as Morrison proposes, isn't going to do jack when every year we have hundreds of thousands of foreign students crowding into our cities, pushing up demand for housing and using infrastructure and services." - Bernard Keane (Crikey)

"What we're talking about is Islamist ideology. Let's not tar the whole subpopulation with the actions of the crazy few." - Bill Shorten

"You trivialised and laughed about the suffering of an Australian and his family. You followed it with smutty, unnecessary comments about a woman voicing her political opinion." – Pamela Anderson responding to Scomo smut

SMUT

American 'celebrity' Pamela Anderson had gone into bat for Julian Assange suggesting the Australian government should be doing more to assist Assange. In reply Scott Morrison's told a Gold Coast FM radio station that he had "plenty of mates who've asked me if they can be my special envoy to sort the issue out with Pamela Anderson",

Bevan (ABC Radio Presenter Adelaide): What I'm saying to you is she has built her career on looking good in a swimsuit. I'm pretty sure that's why she got the job in Baywatch.

Wong: I don't know, I never watched Baywatch.

I'm pretty boring, clearly. David, I think people should be treated appropriately and respectfully regardless of how they look or what they might have worn at some point.

BRIGHT FUTURE (Crikey)

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten will unveil Labor's long-expected energy package, which is set to include a more ambitious version of the National Energy Guarantee, rebates for battery installations, and \$10 billion for the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

[The ABC reports](#) that Labor's adoption of the Coalition's doomed energy policy is aimed at both tentatively offering a bipartisan solution and leapfrogging expected criticism, while also upgrading the Coalition's target from 26% to 45% total emissions cuts on 2005 levels by 2030. [The Sydney Morning Herald reports](#) that the CEFC funding would allow Labor to invest in new renewable or low-emission energy projects without having to negotiate with either the Coalition or the Greens.

MEANWHILE ...



Labor has received a late boost to its energy policy plans to be released on Thursday with the International Monetary Fund saying Australia needed policy certainty on emissions reduction. "Energy policy should further reduce uncertainty for investment decisions," the IMF said in its annual assessment of the Australian economy released on Tuesday. "Governments have already made substantial progress on pricing and reliability issues. The clarification in due course of policies to achieve Australia's greenhouse gas emissions target commitments will also help reduce uncertainty."

SICKNESS

According to [SBS](#), Amnesty International and the Refugee Council of Australia published the report, titled "Until when? The forgotten men on Manus Island", just hours after Kurdish journalist and refugee Behrouz Boochani reported the [tenth suicide attempt or self harm event](#) in the space of two weeks.

The report found that men are suffering after more than five years indefinite detention, cuts to mental and physical health services, and violence from local authorities and members of the public, while Boochani has claimed that Port Moresby's hospital had [inflamed tensions on Tuesday](#) by rejecting a seriously ill refugee.

NEARNDETHAL



The Victorian Coalition Opposition will shut down the State's only medically supervised drug injecting room within a week if voted into government in this Saturday's state election.

The facility is located in Richmond, the only state seat where the Liberals have not put forward a candidate. Despite the injecting room enjoying broad support from locals, Opposition Leader Matthew Guy has made its closure a top priority of the party's first 100 days of government if elected.

LEADERLESS

The irony of Mr Morrison's announcement about some sort of migration cap is that it was made in the Bradfield Oration. John Bradfield was a visionary engineer who planned for a bigger and better Sydney, decades ahead of his time. The small minds and limited ambitions of those who have followed betrayed Mr Bradfield's vision.

The lack of planning for growth in Sydney and Melbourne is hardly a sound basis for setting national population goals, but that's what Mr Morrison has bowed down to. There is no policy basis for his announcement, just the bellowing of his "base".

[So we have a failure of infrastructure and planning policy now to be solved by an ill-considered thought bubble on the dog whistle topic of migration. – Leadership Australia style. David Margan, Editor]

SINS

"A Tasmanian man named Allan Maccaul copped a \$500 fine this week after he shouted 'you're a f..... Muppet, you're a f..... Muppet' at Prime Minister Scott Morrison, at the Bathurst 1000 in early October."

This despite an earlier ruling in a case involving, a man who 'verbally abused' Tony Abbott, where the judge said this;

"This is an essential and accepted part of any democracy. That criticism can often extend to personal denigration or perhaps even ridicule, but still maintain its essential character as political comment. There is no reason to conclude that the prime minister, as the leader of the federal government, should be treated any differently to any other person who holds or seeks political office."

Seems we're not allowed to have a go at SCOMO!

HERDING KAT – TER - Rosie Lewis – The Australian

"A "Bob Katter wrangler" for the final parliamentary sitting fortnight of the year is being considered by the Morrison government amid concerns the independent MP may not make it to the chamber for key votes. Far north Queensland Liberal MP Warren Entsch, a former chief opposition whip, was suggested as a possible candidate for the job but yesterday told *The Australian* "it'd be a bit like herding cats". With the Coalition now in minority government, Scott Morrison must gain the vote of at least one crossbench MP to pass legislation through the House of Representatives and defeat any Labor motions to refer Liberal MPs to the High Court. The Prime Minister clinched a deal with Mr Katter to fund \$234 million in water projects in his electorate of Kennedy in exchange for his support on key issues of confidence and supply, procedural and referral motions and second reading amendments "that attempt to cause disruption to the good order of the house"

ANOTHER GOVERNMENT GO-SLOW

The Morrison Government makes all sorts of noises about supporting small business as a key engine of our economy but when it comes down to it – its big business and foreign owned multi-nationals that they really support – witness this from the *New Daily*:

"Independent mechanics say they will find it increasingly difficult to keep trading if the federal government does not force car makers to share computer codes and technical information.

In May, the government agreed reform of the sector was a priority. But since then, the industry body representing 22,000 independent auto-repairers said progress had been slow.

"We're for it as soon as possible," Guy Nicholls from the Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association said.

"In Europe and in America, these schemes are already in place."

Motor vehicles are becoming increasingly complex, with some models containing more lines of computer code than airliners.

Kellie Dutton, owner of Island Auto Repairs on Queensland's Bribie Island, said getting that technical information from car makers was paramount to being able to support customers.

"If we can't, it makes it really hard to stay open," she said."

POSITIVE OF NEGATIVE



The International Monetary Fund has signalled qualified support for Labor's plan to curtail negative gearing, but warned that reducing tax breaks that encourage excessive borrowing should be part of a broader tax reform and be rolled out carefully. In an interview at the conclusion of a review of Australia's economy, IMF mission chief to Australia Thomas Helbling told The Australian Financial Review that tax incentives for leveraged real estate and shares, as well as tax concessions for other assets, should be reviewed. Cautiously weighing into the politically charged debate over Labor's proposal to unwind negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions, Mr Helbling said the fund had long supported discouraging too much borrowing for assets such as residential real estate. "Australia would benefit from broader tax reform, including revisiting tax

concessions that favour leveraged investment by households," he said.

MY HEALTH-UNHEALTHY- Sue Dunlevy – (Courier Mail)

The \$2 billion My Health Record uses technology which is so out of date that crucial patient information on test results and diseases can't be shared or read by computers. Harvard medical school E-Health guru Dr John Halamka, in Australia to speak at the Wild Health Summit, said the My Health Record was nothing more than "digitised paper". "The My Health record is a noble idea but the standard they chose is from 1995. It uses PDFs, it's not computable, it is just digitised paper," he said. Doctors have complained the record is not searchable, claiming it can take hours to find the test results or records they need as they have to open each PDF file to see what it contains. When they do find the information, they can't reformat it to personalise a health plan for the patient. The chair of the Australian Medical Association's medico legal committee, Dr Chris Moy, said it was a symptom of a much bigger problem – the failure of health systems, hospitals and doctors' clinics around Australia to agree on computer codification and software interoperability. Patient safety was at risk, he said. "In one state there are 150 software systems that don't talk to each other: the cardiology ward's system will not talk to the main hospital system, how unsafe is that?" Dr Moy said.

MORE ZIMMER FRAMES

The number of Australians aged 85 years and over is projected to double by 2042, increasing to over 1 million people according to the latest population projections released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Population projections are based on assumptions of future levels of fertility, life expectancy and migration, which are guided by recent population trends.

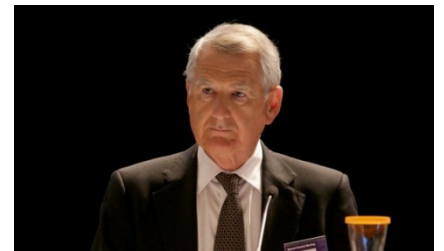
Anthony Grubb, Director of Demography at the ABS, said: "By 2042, people aged 85 years or over could make up 3 per cent of Australia's population, compared to only 2 per cent in 2017. The narrowing gap in the life expectancy of men and women could see the proportion of men in this older age group increase from 38 per cent to 42 per cent in 2066 under medium assumptions.

*As well, based on current trends, Australia's population is projected to reach 30 million people between 2029 and 2033, according to the latest figures **Queensland** is projected to increase by between 0.7 million and 1 million people from 30 June 2017 to reach between 5.7 and 5.9 million people by 2027. Growth will be slower in Western Australia, reaching 2.9 million in 2027.*

***Brisbane** is projected to increase from 49% of Queensland's population to 51% in 2027, becoming the majority part of Queensland's population.*

GREEDY GRUBS

Former Commonwealth Bank chairman David Turner refused to return 40 per cent of his director's fees when asked by the board, a demand that was never made public, the Banking Royal Commission has heard. CBA chairman Catherine Livingstone said Mr Turner, her predecessor, was asked to relinquish the fees in response to the failures of leadership exposed by an Australian Prudential Regulation Authority review last year. Mr Turner, who also approved \$14.2 million in bonuses to top bank executives in just 10 minutes despite David Turner mounting scandals, refused to hand back the fees because he "didn't recognise" the CBA "board that he knew" in the APRA report.



Reserve Bank governor Philip Lowe has taken aim at the leaders of Australia's banks for chasing short-term profits by promoting a sales-driven culture, which has eroded trust in the country's largest financial institutions. As the banking royal commission grilled the Commonwealth Bank's top brass over a string of failings, Dr Lowe last night lambasted banks for prioritising "sales over service", and highlighted major flaws in how bankers were paid.

Meanwhile evidence has revealed that Former Commonwealth Bank chief Ian Narev told current CEO Matt Comyn to "temper your sense of justice" in 2015 when Mr Comyn suggested the bank get out of dodgy credit insurance operations.



THE MIGHTY FALL

*I'm probably the most powerful man in the media, I guess," ad buyer, perennial rich-lister and prolific board member Harold Mitchell Or, as Jane Cadzow put it her **Good Weekend** profile a decade ago:*

A word from him, and a car manufacturer will switch its multi million dollar account from one network to another. At his suggestion, a department store will promote its mid year clearance sale in a newspaper rather than on radio. Consequently, broadcasting and publishing bosses promptly return his calls.

Now Mitchell has been named in new Federal Court proceedings brought by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, following an [investigation into Tennis Australia's decision](#) in 2013, to award television rights to Seven for a five-year period without a competitive tender process. ASIC alleges he "passed on to the Seven Network confidential information about the interest of its competitors in acquiring the rights".

His influence — not just in terms of the \$100s of millions in ad revenue he controlled, but in the resume of board roles and directorships he's held — is staggering.

Apart from his role at Tennis Australia, there was the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, the New York Philharmonic, the National Gallery of Australia, the Museum Board of Victoria, Opera Australia, the Deakin Foundation and the Melbourne International Festival of Arts, a director at Crown Casino, the chairman of ThoroughVision, CARE Australia, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Melbourne Rebels rugby team, broadcaster TVS, Art Exhibitions Australia, the Deakin Foundation and the Melbourne Recital Centre, the National Gallery of Australia, the Melbourne Festival, the Museums Board of Victoria, the Asthma Foundation. There's a [reason this publication judged him](#) "Melbourne's most powerful man" in 2013.



CROOK BANKERS - WHAT ARE WE MISSING? - Extract from Article by Glen Dwyer (Crikey – Business Commentator)

The "key reason not merely for poor bank culture, but for an investment community that resists a longer term investment horizon, punishes companies for investing rather than generating profits, and rewards acquisitions and mergers with competitors rather than innovation. All turbo-charged by dividend imputation, which incentivises companies to target higher dividends or buybacks rather than using capital effectively, and a financial media that worships short-termism and star fund managers and analysts — many of whom who now look like charlatans.

The banking royal commission has been one giant exercise in confirming how much people respond to incentives, even if it leads to unethical, immoral or even self-defeating behaviour. And the lesson extends well beyond the offices, trading floors and branches of our banks."

CASUAL RIP-OFF

New analysis shows many casual workers are not being paid as much as permanent employees, despite trading off entitlements including annual leave and redundancy. Casuals are supposed to be paid loadings of 25 per cent more than permanent workers earn to compensate for not getting entitlements including sick leave, annual leave and redundancy.

However, new analysis suggests this loading averages only 4 per cent to 5 per cent. Joshua Healy from the Centre for Workplace Leadership at the University of Melbourne has analysed Australian Bureau of Statistics data that shows the average casual wage is nowhere near 25 per cent more than what a permanent worker would earn. He compared the median hourly wages for adult employees in no managerial roles, based on their ordinary earnings and hours of work. Overtime payments were excluded.



Where the median wage for casuals was higher than for non-casuals or permanent workers, there was a premium for the casual worker. His research found that the median wage premium is in the order of 4 per cent to 5 per cent in 10 occupations. Only one of the 10 occupations he examined – that of school teachers – had a wage premium of 22 per cent in line with what is ordinarily expected. The premium was 5 per cent or less for sales assistants, hospitality workers, personal carers, cleaners and laundry workers, food preparation assistants and some labourers. Other occupations, including office clerks, packers and sports and fitness workers, received even less than permanent workers. Dr Healy said the 10 occupations he looked at account for more than half of all adult casual workers in Australia. His analysis is based on data collected in 2016 by the ABS Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours, which draws upon data including employer payroll records. "My analysis indicates that the casual wage premium is smaller than might be expected," he said. A new Australian Council of Trade Unions report, the myth of the casual wage premium, cites Dr Healy's research. The report shows 34.3 per cent of casual workers did not receive a casual loading. ACTU national secretary Sally McManus said casuals should receive a genuine premium for a lack of paid leave and job security

UNIVERSITIES UNRAVELLING - Bob Birrell Katharine Betts - The Australian Population Research Institute

All universities have been financially squeezed as government revenues have lagged their rising costs. Overseas students have offered an alternative source of funding that almost all universities have pursued. As noted, overseas student fees made up 20.7 per cent of higher education operational revenues in 2016, up from 16.4 per cent just four years previously. For universities competing in the market sector dependent on high international ratings, it has been imperative that they enhance their research effort. These ratings, as we have seen, are based on publications and citations in elite international journals. Research relevant to local industry or to Australia's social conditions does not count. Nor does any effort to develop new vocational courses relevant to local employment. Teaching has become a distant second-order priority. As one Go8 leader put it: 'Most academics believe that they are here to do research.... They know they have to pay their taxes in order to get the chance to do their research. "Taxes" means you have to teach... Provide engagement? They don't even know what it (engagement) means.' Here, the reference is to links (engagement) with local industry.⁴⁷ Another Go8 Vice Chancellor acknowledges that the result is an immoral and unsustainable outcome in which a large portion of university research is funded by both domestic and international fees.⁴⁸ Meanwhile the Australian government has turbocharged the prioritisation of global knowledge over applied research. It has done this by making access to the pool of government funds allocated to research dependent on outcomes prioritised by the global university ratings. All of Australia's 38 universities want to emulate the Go8's success, but to do so they have to participate in an arms race to improve their global rating. In this setting concerns about the parlous state of vocational research and teaching in Australia hardly get a look in.

"By 2015-16 Australia exported \$20.8 billion of Elaborately Transformed Manufactures (a proxy for knowledge-intensive goods) and imported \$190.3 billion of these products. The resulting deficit of \$169.5 billion was largely covered by a net surplus of exports of primary goods, mainly minerals and fuels of \$129 billion." [You can see the larger problem, we still just export rocks! Ed]

For the full report control click: <http://tapri.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/final-report-overseas-student-industryV2.pdf>

A LACK OF INFLUENCE

Satirical comedy team The Chaser have had a 2019 election special canned by Aunty. The founder of The Chaser, Charles Firth, has described the ABC as "an institution in crisis" after the political comedy group revealed it would not have a series on the public broadcaster ahead of next year's federal election.

On Monday, The Chaser team tweeted that the ABC had declined to fund a series for 2019.

The comedy troupe has been an election-year fixture on the ABC dating back to the Howard/Beazley years.



Firth said, 'It's one of those things if the ABC had wanted to go ahead with it, we would've jumped at the chance,' he says. For Firth, the ABC's decision – "they just said they didn't have the money," was the reason behind the rejection – is further proof the public broadcaster is conceding to government influence

"The ABC is in a difficult position, so what some people inside the ABC have decided to do is be safe because safeness means there's no senate inquiries, there's no questions from the prevailing government," he continued. "[But] the moment you start being safe is the moment "They're in a death spiral where they're getting safer and safer and they're going to lose more and more of their audience."



Dickson Candidate, Ali France, with Claire & Friends of the ABC

WHITE & BLUE DEATH



"It's important to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Asbestos Awareness Week, and pay tribute to those people that have been working tirelessly to either campaign for more support for victims of industrial diseases, asbestos related industrial diseases. Also, pay tribute to those who led the way." said Brendon O'Connor.

While Professor Anna Nowack had this to say : "Yes I guess we have a situation where the latest figures show that over 700 people every year - that is Australians - die of Mesothelioma, which is one of the key cancers caused by asbestos, and probably about four times as many from asbestos related lung cancer.

Most of those people were exposed in the workplace - particularly men, less so for women - but this is a disease which, you are looking at now two Australians every day dying from their work, but because it is happening forty years later, we don't recognise that, and, unfortunately only about 1 in 20 people with mesothelioma will live for 5 years with this illness. So, we are talking about a disease with an extraordinarily low survival and we absolutely need more medical research."

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WELL DONE



As more bacteria become drug-resistant, scientists are racing to find new and improved antibiotics to fight superbugs and potentially life-threatening infections.

So colossal is the problem that the World Health Organisation has named antibiotic resistance as one of the biggest threats to human health.

Some bacteria are turning into superbugs, meaning they are becoming immune to multiple types of antibiotics, signalling an urgent need to create alternative solutions.

Amid the uphill battle against the antibiotic shortage, the humble fungi has emerged as a promising, untapped resource – and the most recent discovery has been made right here in Australia.

Flinders University PhD candidate Samra Qaraghuli made the novel finding while screening wild mushrooms for antibiotic properties in South Australia's Deep Creek and surrounding regions.

Mrs Qaraghuli, who moved from Baghdad to Adelaide in 2013 to conduct the study, recently took out the top prize at the AMP Amplify Ignite awards for her research efforts.

She competed against 17 PhD students from nine universities to make it through to this year's final round of the competition, winning a \$5000 prize to go toward her research fund.

BIG IS BETTER – The New Daily

BHP has settled a long-standing dispute with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) for \$529 million, in relation to taxes it allegedly owed between 2003 and 2018. The mining giant said it had already paid \$328 million of this amount, in response to amended tax assessments.

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

As part of the settlement, the company will not admit it engaged in tax avoidance.

The “transfer pricing” dispute relates to the amount of tax BHP owed for selling its Australian commodities via its Singapore marketing business — or allegedly shifting its profits offshore. Singapore’s corporate tax rate, at 17 per cent, is significantly lower than Australia’s rates. But the Singaporean rate that applies to companies like BHP, in recent years, has been legally reduced to almost zero – thanks to generous incentives from Singapore’s government.

Marketing hubs established by the mining giants allow for iron ore and coal to be dug up in Australia, then sold to the companies’ own operations in Singapore, before they are subsequently sold with a high mark-up to China and other nations.

The ATO initially sought \$661 million in primary tax from BHP. But when interest and penalties are factored in, that takes the tax bill to more than \$1 billion. *[Wish I had a Billion dollar tax bill but only had to pay half! Ed]*

CONCORDE 2



The jet – dubbed “the son of Concorde” – is designed to fly at 55,000 feet, reaching 1700km/h and could fly from London to New York in just three hours. NASA awarded Lockheed Martin the \$247.5 million contract to build the highly anticipated aircraft, saying the move “marks a milestone to bring supersonic commercial travel over land one step closer to reality”.

“This aircraft has the potential to transform aviation in the United States and around the world by making faster-than-sound air travel over land possible for everyone,” NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said.

WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?

A team of professional curlers have been booted from a World Curling Tour event for being “extremely drunk” while competing.

Ryan Fry, a gold medallist at the 2014 Winter Olympics, and his team members Jamie Koe, Chris Schille and DJ Kidby, were disqualified from Canada’s Red Deer Curling Classic on Sunday.

Red Deer Curling Centre’s Wade Thurber told Canadian broadcaster CBC that spectators and players complained about the team’s behaviour.

“They went out to curl and they were extremely drunk – breaking brooms and swearing and just unacceptable behaviour that nobody wants to watch or hear or listen to,”



LET THE SILLY SEASON COMMENCE

“They might want to pinch a tactic from the world of darts, where two rivals at The Grand Slam of Darts are kicking up a stink and accusing each other of farting to put off the other. Scot Gary Anderson is world champion and he beat Dutchman Wesley Harms in the quarter-finals. Harms smelt a rat though – and various other noxious fumes – accusing Anderson of “leaving a fragrant smell” on the stage during their clash. “It’ll take me two nights to lose this smell from my nose,” Harms told Dutch television after the match.

Anderson was having none of it, suggesting the smell came from the crowd or his opponent. Given the traditional darts diet of pints and pork pies, the prospect of an olfactory weapon being deployed in this manner is quite frightening.”

ENERGY POLICY

SUPPORTING AUSTRALIA'S ENERGY WORKFORCE – Shorten/Mark Butler/Conroy

A Shorten Labor Government will support local workers as Australia’s energy mix changes, helping them to plan for the future and take advantage of the tens of thousands of jobs available in renewable energy.

Coal will continue to be part of our energy mix into the future, and coal mining will continue to be an important industry for the Australian economy.

A number of ageing coal-fired power stations will reach the end of their technical life in the coming years – 75 per cent of coal-fired power stations are already operating beyond their original design life.

It’s impossible for ageing coal-fired power stations to stay open forever. And it’s irresponsible to pretend otherwise. Australia must have a plan to help workers and communities respond to future closures.

Labor will implement a long-term plan to ensure workers are supported and are first in line for new job opportunities. **Labor will:**

1. **Train workers in the skills they need** – Labor will commit \$10 million to a Clean Energy Training Fund to train workers in clean energy industries, from solar and battery installers, to energy management system professionals. Labor will work with TAFEs, RTOs, unions, and industry, to make sure workers have the skills they need to benefit from Labor’s Plan for More Renewables and Cheaper Power.
2. **Ensure any closures are managed to minimise community impacts** – Labor will establish an independent Just Transition Authority to help plan for and coordinate the response to the eventual closure of coal-fired power stations in the future. The Authority will oversee pooled redundancy schemes and economic diversification plans in impacted regions. Labor will also require all large generators to provide at least three years notice of closure. The Authority will have a cost of \$8.5 million over the forward estimates.
3. **Make sure displaced workers are first in line for new jobs** – Labor will make it mandatory for power stations and coal mines to participate in pooled redundancy schemes – to help ensure every worker impacted by a closure is provided an offer of employment at a nearby power station or coal mine, subject to enough positions being created.
4. **Take a proactive approach to economic diversification** for impacted regions and communities, guided by the work of the Just Transition Authority. The size and detail of the policies will be developed in government and tailored to individual regions’ characteristics.

It is critical that the long term planning and coordination work is undertaken as soon as possible – to provide new economic opportunities for impacted workers and communities. That’s why Labor will get started on our plan as soon as we are elected.



In contrast, the Liberals have consistently failed to provide support for workers and communities impacted by economic transition – the communities of Hazelwood and Northern power station workers were supported by state Labor Governments after plant closures but ignored by the Federal Liberal Government. Renewables are good for power prices and good for the environment, but they are also good for jobs and the economy. Modelling released by the Australia Institute estimates that Labor’s Plan for More Renewable Energy and Cheaper Power will generate up to 70,000 jobs by 2030. Labor will work to ensure that these are well-paid, secure jobs. Labor’s plan will ensure communities impacted by inevitable coal-fired power station closures aren’t left behind in this transition. Unlike the Liberals who have a track record of abandoning communities when a coal-fired power station closes, Labor will support local workers and build stronger local economies when they are needed most. Fact sheet: [Labor’s Plan for a Just Transition](#) .

PLAN FOR MORE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CHEAPER POWER – Shorten/Mark Butler

A Shorten Labor Government will drive new investment in renewable energy generation and storage and transform Australia’s energy supply systems – delivering more renewables and cheaper power for all Australians.

Our Plan for More Renewable Energy and Cheaper Power includes a ten-year energy investment framework that delivers certainty for industry, lower power prices and more reliability.

Labor’s preference is to achieve a bi-partisan agreement on energy policy. But Scott Morrison and the Liberals are too divided and too out of touch to agree on an energy policy that can lower prices, boost renewables and address climate change.

Labor will continue to pursue a bipartisan market mechanism, such as a National Energy Guarantee, that could deliver on our commitment of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

Labor is prepared to work with the Liberals, but we will not wait for them.

1. A Shorten Labor Government will double the original investment in the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

Labor will provide an additional \$10 billion in capital for the CEFC over five years from 2019-20. This will be used to:

- Support large-scale generation and storage projects, including solar and wind farms;
- Support Labor’s Household Battery Program by providing concessional loans for the purchase of solar and battery systems;
- Boost investment in energy efficiency projects, commercial and community renewable energy projects, and industrial transformation.

Labor created the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and it has been a huge success – leveraging \$19 billion of investments in clean energy projects so far.

This policy will deliver a modest improvement to the underlying cash balance over the forward estimates.

2. A Shorten Labor Government will create an independent Energy Security and Modernisation Fund.

Labor will provide \$5 billion in capital to future-proof our energy network – building and upgrading Australia’s energy transmission and distribution systems.

Using the Australian Energy Market Operator’s Integrated Systems Plan as our blueprint, Labor will facilitate investment in:

- Upgrades to existing interconnectors, and building new interconnectors to lower prices and improve system stability;
- New gas pipelines, upgrades and extensions to unlock new gas supplies and improve transportation to businesses and households;
 - Transmission links to Renewable Energy Zones to access new renewables projects across the country.

The Energy Security and Modernisation Fund will help manage the transition to more renewables in our energy system – ensuring households and businesses have the energy supply they need when they need it, at affordable prices.

This policy will deliver a modest improvement to the underlying cash balance over the forward estimates.

3. A Shorten Labor Government will implement a new Energy Productivity Agenda.

Five years of the Liberals has seen Australia’s energy efficiency performance deteriorate, with the International Energy Agency now ranking Australia last out of developed countries in energy efficiency policy and performance. This drives up costs for businesses and households, and undermines jobs.

Labor will implement a suite of measures to help Australian businesses improve their energy efficiency and cut their power bills. We will:

- Provide one thousand grants of up to \$20,000 to Australian manufacturers to help them reduce their energy usage – for example, through energy management systems and data gathering and analysis;
- Allow ARENA to support a broader range of energy efficiency projects, not just projects with renewable energy involvement;
- Develop new training programs for energy managers and consultants, and an accreditation system for energy auditors;
- Improve state and territory energy efficiency initiatives through COAG.

Labor will commit \$31 million over the forward estimates to deliver these measures.

Labor’s Plan for More Renewable Energy and Cheaper Power will be good for households, good for the economy and good for the environment. It will help deliver 50 per cent of power from renewables by 2030, keep power prices lower, and create tens of thousands of jobs in the renewables industry. Only Labor will deliver cheaper power bills, more renewables and more jobs for Australians.

BATTERY BOOST FOR HOUSEHOLDS TO SLASH POWER BILLS – Shorten/Mark Butler

A Shorten Labor Government will help Australians slash their power bills by setting a new national target of one million household battery installations by 2025.

From 2020, Labor’s Household Battery Program will provide a \$2,000 rebate for 100,000 households on incomes of less than \$180,000 per year to purchase and install battery systems, as well as low-cost loans for households.

This would triple the number of battery systems in Australian households compared to today’s numbers. The massive boost will also help manufacturers scale up production and reduce their costs, in order reach the goal of one million households with battery systems by 2025.

The Smart Energy Council estimates that new household solar and batteries would allow most homes to save more than 60 per cent off their power bills.

Australians love renewable energy because they know it saves them money and it's good for the environment. Household solar installation has sky-rocketed from 7,000 homes in 2007 to 1.8 million homes today.

Supporting the installation of more household battery systems is the next big step in helping families keep their energy bills lower. When the sun goes down, or when electricity usage is at its peak, consumers can draw on their own stored energy.

This is good for consumers – giving them more control over their power bills, as well as lowering power prices and improving reliability for all Australians by reducing demand on the electricity grid in peak times.

And it's good for the environment – cheaper and cleaner electricity for Aussie households will help Australia achieve 50 per cent of power from renewables by 2030.

Labor's battery installation rebate for 100,000 households has been costed by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office to have a budget cost of \$140.9 million over the forward estimates and \$201.3 million over four years to 2022-23.

A Shorten Labor Government will also invest in a Neighbourhood Renewables Program so that renters and social housing residents can also benefit from cheaper and cleaner renewable energy.

We will establish community power hubs to support the development of renewables projects in local communities – such as solar gardens on apartment rooftops, community wind farms, energy efficiency upgrades for social housing, and grants for community groups to pilot new projects.

Labor's Neighbourhood Renewables Program has a capped budget cost of \$75 million over the forward estimates and \$100 million over four years to 2022-23.

These new initiatives to cut power bills for Australian households build on our existing commitments to crack down on price gouging by power companies by overhauling electricity deals, abolishing expensive outdated energy plans, and introducing a capped offer for consumers.

Australia is in an energy crisis under the Liberals. Electricity prices have increased by nearly 19 per cent over the past three years – three times faster than wages growth.

The Liberals haven't been able to agree a policy amongst themselves, and aren't up to leading the country in the right direction.

Labor's Plan for More Renewable Energy and Cheaper Power will be good for households, good for the economy and good for the environment.

It will help deliver 50 per cent of power from renewables by 2030, keep power prices lower, and create tens of thousands of jobs in the renewables industry. Only Labor will deliver cheaper power bills, more renewables and more jobs for Australians.

FACT SHEETS: [Household Batteries Program](#); [Neighbourhood Renewables Program](#)

RENEWABLE ENERGY CREATES UP TO 70,000 JOBS BY 2030 – Mark Butler/Conroy

[New data](#) from The Australia Institute shows under Labor's plan to transition Australia's ageing and unreliable energy fleet to clean, cheap, reliable renewable energy will see up to 70,000 good jobs created for Australians in construction, installation, operation and maintenance of renewable energy; with up to 60,000 of those jobs being new jobs in construction and installation.

Only Labor has a plan to support Australian workers with good, new jobs that will benefit our regions, secure our energy future and put downward pressure on power prices.

The data indicates over the decade to 2030 there are far more jobs in building new renewable generation than there currently are in operating our ageing fossil fuel generators.

Australia Institute Rod Campbell says ***“With strong targets, stable energy policy and support for manufacturing. Australia can clean up its energy sector and generate substantial employment opportunities.***

“A large proportion of the jobs being created in renewable energy are outside of the major city centres, which has the potential to give regional Australia a much-needed boost.”

But Scott Morrison's out of touch Liberals' only energy plan is to spend billions of taxpayers' dollars on uninvestable and expensive new coal-fired power stations, which will continue to drive up power prices and pollution and not secure the jobs of the future.

Australian workers will be worse off under the out of touch Morrison Government.

Under Labor's Fair Go Action Plan, a Shorten Labor Government will invest in cheaper, cleaner energy and deliver 50 per cent of power from renewables by 2030.

92% SAY MORRISON'S CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICIES ARE INADEQUATE – Mark Butler

Tuesday's [Australian Climate Policy Survey](#) from the Carbon Market Institute vindicates just how out of touch the Morrison Government is with handling the challenge of Australia's climate and energy transition.

The survey of Australian business and industry leaders revealed an overwhelming consensus, 92 per cent of respondents, agreeing that Scott Morrison's current national climate and energy policies are insufficient to drive the emissions reductions needed to meet our Paris targets by 2030.

As the survey says, ***“Australian business and industry overwhelmingly agree that current climate and energy policies are inadequate and will not drive Australia's emissions reductions required under our Paris Agreement commitments.”***

With 82 per cent of business leaders also agreeing that Australia should set an economy wide net zero emissions target for 2050 – in line with Labor policy.

Yet instead of a plan to deal with Australia's rising carbon pollution, the Liberals' only plan is to spend billions of taxpayers' dollars on expensive new coal-fired power stations.

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

Under the Liberals' energy crisis, all Australians can expect is higher power prices, more pollution and more blackouts.

Under Labor's Fair Go Action Plan, a Shorten Labor Government will invest in cheaper, cleaner energy and deliver 50 per cent of power from renewables by 2030. And we will give Australian businesses leaders the policy certainty needed to tackle climate change with our 45 per cent emissions reduction target by 2030 (on 2005 baseline).

ECONOMY

BHP'S TAX EVASION AND ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE AUSTRALIAN TAX OFFICE – Swan

BHP's status as one of Australia's largest tax evaders is laid bare by the settlement with the Tax Office of disputes which go back to 2003. This settlement confirms what BHP has repeatedly denied – Its Singapore marketing hub was used for tax evasion using transfer pricing.

I first raised these matters in the parliament in September 2015. BHP's duplicity and hypocrisy was laid bare in a Senate tax inquiry in 2015. And since then at every turn BHP have continued to deny the true purpose of its dual structure and its use of its Singapore marketing hub.

The findings of the senate inquiry gave BHP the chance to come clean and reform their practices and re-joining the majority of Australian businesses that pay their fair share of tax.

From that time they chose to deny, obscure and mislead the public over their deliberate tax evasion.

The settlement with the tax office confirms more than \$1 billion in tax and royalty revenue has been funnelled out of Australia over the past decade contrary to BHP public statements.

Stunningly in 2017 BHP's annual report confirmed their CEO was awarded a million dollar bonus for enhancing BHP's tax and transparency reputation.

BHP cannot claim to be transparent given their failure to outline numerous back payments to the tax office as a result of tax audits over a decade long period.

When global companies like BHP act this way they compromise the social contract and give a green light to others to go about minimising or evading tax.

When the former Chairman Jac Nasser retired and a new chairman Ken McKenzie was appointed BHP had the opportunity to restore its reputation as **"The Big Australian"** and shut down its Singapore marketing hub. It did not take this opportunity and launched another misleading advertising campaign. As I said at the time BHP was at risk at becoming known as the **"Dishonest Australian"**.

Sadly its announcement of the settlement with the tax office continues down that path.

The BHP board now has an opportunity to be honest and forthright with the Australian people and not hide behind a legal settlement. The board should provide a full and frank explanation behind its role in aggressive transfer pricing and the ethical framework it will use in the future to re-establish trust with the authorities and the Australian Public. It should now come clean about the total amount of royalties it owes State Governments as a result of deliberately understating their sales to related parties.

Anything less than a full and frank statement about these matters leaves a cloud over the Board's commitment to transparency. The settlement with the Tax Office was made possible by laws I passed as Australian Treasurer in 2013 which were opposed by the Liberal National Party on the grounds they were retrospective. Congratulations to the ATO staff who pursued this matter doggedly, our pensioners, patients and students who will benefit from your hard work salute you.

These laws were used in the 2017 Chevron judgment handed down by the federal court which added \$430 million to the budget bottom line. In the wash-up of this scandalous attempt to undermine the tax base, what has become evident is that some leaders of corporate conglomerates like BHP believe they are above the law. They believe this because they shield themselves behind an army of highly paid lawyers and accountants. In this case it has taken more than a decade to reach a point of some resolution. Appropriate corporate governance would have resulted in this matter being resolved much sooner, or even better not occurring in the first place.

LIBS WASTING TIME AND TAXPAYER FUNDS ON SHAM HEARING – Thistlethwaite/Keogh

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government is wasting an opportunity to outline a plan for Australia's economy or propose solutions to sustained, low wages growth, by instead using a parliamentary committee hearing today to attack Opposition policy.

With Josh Frydenberg more focused on foreign policy freelancing and fighting with Christopher Pyne, the Liberals are looking to the likes of Tim Wilson and Craig Kelly to campaign on behalf of the small number of Australians benefitting from a Howard-era dividend refund schemes.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee today saw a line-up of [representatives of vested interests](#) arguing for the retention of the only fully-refundable imputation system in the world. Little to no evidence was provided to substantiate their arguments.

Labor is cracking down on this unsustainable tax loophole because it will soon cost the budget \$8 billion a year, and mainly benefits millionaires who don't pay income tax. Most working Australians do not receive cash refunds for excess franking credits.

[Analysis from the Parliamentary Budget Office \(PBO\)](#) shows that 92 per cent of taxpayers in Australia did not receive any cash refunds for excess imputation credits in their 2014-15 tax return, while the majority of refunds go to wealthier households.

Self Managed Super Funds (SMSFs) with a balance over \$2.44 million claim nearly 53 per cent of all excess franking credits. SMSFs with a balance over \$1 million claim 82 per cent of all excess franking credits.

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has had five years to develop a plan to help reform and grow our national economy.

Budgets are about choices – Labor has made the hard choice to stop spending \$8 billion on tax refunds for people who don't pay income tax, so we can pay for better schools and better hospitals for all Australians.

Only Labor is ready to deliver a fair go for all Australians.

BHP DECISION BASED ON LAWS THE COALITION VOTED AGAINST - Leigh

The Coalition voted against laws that helped secure a \$529 million [transfer pricing settlement](#) between the Australian Taxation Office and BHP.

These laws, passed by the former Labor Government in 2013, were opposed by Liberal and National Party members on the grounds that they were 'retrospective'.

Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg owe the Australian people an apology. If they had their way, the budget would be millions of dollars worse off.

These laws were also used in the 2017 Chevron judgment, handed down by the High Court, which saw \$340 million added to the budget bottom line.

Labor has supported all of the modest multinational tax measures that the Coalition has brought to the parliament. But the Liberals have refused to back our plans for closing loopholes, such as reducing debt-deductions by mega multinationals.



Under the Coalition, government debt is rising faster than it did during the Global Financial Crisis. Net government debt now exceeds \$13,000 for every person in Australia. If the Coalition had gotten their way in 2013, another multinational tax loophole would remain open, and government debt would be higher still.

The Coalition should now adopt Labor's full package to crack down on multinational tax avoidance and tax havens:

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

JOHN 'YES/NO ON NEGATIVE GEARING REFORM' SYMOND – Bowen

There isn't a position on negative gearing that John Symond hasn't occupied, so Monday's pronouncements that reforming negative gearing is a "hand grenade", an "atomic bomb" and will lead to a recession are no surprise. Mr Symond was against reform, then he was for reform and now he's against it again.

If Mr Symond wants to make interventions in the political debate, he needs to be held account for his many and different views on negative gearing.

There have been times where Mr Symond, just like Scott Morrison, has argued there were 'excesses' with negative gearing.

Federal Labor will remain consistent – it's actually what the Australian people are looking for.

Labor wants to level the playing field so all Australians can aspire and realise the dream of owning their own home.

We'll take the advice John Symond first gave on negative gearing back in 2013, before Labor took up reforms to negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount.

THE MANY, MANY MUSING OF AUSSIE JOHN ON REFORMING NEGATIVE GEARING

(After an election) 11 November 2013 – ABC Q&A - 'Negative gearing does need to be looked at'

This is what John Symonds said on ABC Q&A on 11 November 2013, well away from the partisan rancour of an election campaign:

TONY JONES: "But, John, I'm going to bring you up because that question was about a different sort of - in fact tax relief that's being given to investors?"

JOHN SYMOND: "Well, I'm getting to that. Absolutely. I come back to overhauling the tax system. Negative gearing wasn't designed for people who can afford to go and buy \$1 million, \$2 million, \$3 million houses or apartments for negative gearing to offset the bulk of their interest payment off their tax. So negative gearing does need to be looked at in the tax system because I don't think it is fair at the moment. I think it leans very heavily to the high income earners and that needs to be brought into line, as is hundreds of other aspects of the tax system."

TONY JONES: "Right. Let's hear brief answers from our panel on this? Carol?"

CAROL SCHWARTZ: "Well, affordable housing is a huge issue globally and, however, negative gearing in this country, I believe, is an absolute political hot potato and no government is going to touch it."

TONY JONES: "Yes, but should they?"

JOHN SYMOND: "Yes."

(After an election) 11 January 2014 – AFR – 'Business calls for negative gearing review'

Aussie Home Loan founder John Symond told AFR Weekend the tax break favoured investors and was distorting the property market.

"Negative gearing is a great tax break, but it needs a total overhaul to make it fairer. First home buyers have no hope of getting into home ownership these days unless they're helped by their families," Mr Symond said. <https://www.afr.com/news/business-calls-for-negative-gearing-review-20140110-iyak5>

(Before an election) 24 February 2016 - Aussie John Symond expects values to drop 20 % under Labor

Ross Greenwood suggested that he was surprised by the Labor's strategy of only allowing negative gearing on new homes, which was met accord from John Symond.

"Ross, can you imagine?"

"Let's say they introduce that legislation - only new housing - the day you exchange contracts on a new home, it immediately becomes an old home and guess what, it will drop by at least 20 percent in value, and who's going to walk in to that one?"



<https://www.propertyobserver.com.au/forward-planning/investment-strategy/politics-and-policy/50850-aussie-john-symonds-expects-values-to-drop-20-percent-under-labor-negative-gearing.html>

(After an election) 2 March 2017 – AFR – ‘Negative gearing can improve: “Aussie” John Symond’

Property industry heavyweight 'Aussie' John Symond has cautiously backed change to negative gearing, arguing any reform to the tax break on property investment should be part of wider changes.

Responding to Stockland boss [Mark Steinert's argument](#) for negative gearing changes as part of a wider reform of property-related taxes, Mr Symond on Thursday agreed that other taxes distorting prices also needed to be tackled to improve housing affordability.

"Negative gearing is a very popular topic," Mr Symond told *The Australian Financial Review* on Thursday.

"You can very easily say 'Can it be improved?' Yes, it can be." <https://www.afr.com/real-estate/residential/negative-gearing-can-improve-aussie-john-symond-20170301-guovv4>

FRYDENBERG STUMBLES ON NEGATIVE GEARING REFORMS – Bowen

It's all a bit embarrassing for the new Treasurer, trying to walk and lie at the same time is proving a bit much. This is the problem when you have no credible economic or tax policy, asked on Sky News AM Agenda whether the Government would bring forward planned income tax cuts, Mr Frydenberg couldn't rule that out.

Mr Frydenberg got pinned today on [Today](#) running his normal scare campaign on Labor's reforms on falling house prices, only to run into the reality that house prices have fallen significantly on his watch.

It remains an inconvenient truth that [Treasury analysis](#) – sat on for years by Scott Morrison - has proven the Liberals are lying about Labor's policy.

Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg are really struggling to take responsibility for decent house price falls, particularly in the Sydney and Melbourne housing markets.

Despite tweeting and referring to John Symond's extreme, ridiculous and contradictory claims over Labor's reforms, not even Mr Frydenberg would endorse his claims that Labor's reforms would lead to a "*recession*".

This morning, Deloitte senior economist, Chris Richardson contradicted John Symond saying that Labor's reforms were "*definitely non-nuclear*" and while they would have an impact, it "*doesn't matter if they're good or bad policy, they're not huge policy. That's the thing that people keep forgetting. The Australian housing market is \$7 trillion where the values or claim of rental properties are \$11 billion a year on the tax system. The lever is too tiny.*"

In 2013 and 2014, well before Labor had outlined reforms to negative gearing and capital gains tax discount, Mr Symond had strongly called for a review and changes to negative gearing. All of that changed after Labor outlined its reforms ahead of the 2016 election.

Labor wants to level the playing field so all Australians can aspire and realise the dream of owning their own home. Labor's policy is fully grandfathered – everyone who currently uses negative gearing can still use it.

FREE TAX CLINICS WILL MAKE TAX LESS TAXING – Leigh

A Shorten Labor Government will make our tax system fairer for disadvantaged Australians by funding 10 free tax clinics across the country.

While multinationals and millionaires can afford an armada of experts to navigate the tax system, low and middle-income Australians are often intimidated by the tax system, and unsure where to turn to get help.

Tax clinics will provide free tax assistance for disadvantaged communities. Each tax clinic will have volunteers, students and pro bono tax practitioners on hand to help low income taxpayers and microbusinesses with administrative tax matters, including completing tax returns and responding to queries raised by the tax office.

The former [Inspector General of Taxation](#), Ali Noroozi, has [stated](#) that tax clinics "*have the potential to be of significant assistance to vulnerable taxpayers*", noting the model of Low Income Tax Clinics in the United States.

A Shorten Labor Government would secure the ongoing tax clinic trial at Curtin University in Perth, and expand tax clinics to up to 10 universities. We would also change the laws to allow clinics to register as tax agents in their own right, as well as providing Deductible Gift Recipient status to facilitate partnerships with experienced tax professionals and institutions.

This policy expands on Labor's comprehensive tax reforms including a \$4.8 billion multinational, tax haven and tax integrity package and a pledge to create an independent Second Commissioner at the Australian Taxation Office to oversee a structurally separate appeals area.

While Labor has been leading the policy discussion on sensible tax reform, the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has ruled out an independent second commissioner of appeals and has shown no appetite for assisting vulnerable tax payers.

Only Labor can be trusted to give everyday taxpayers a helping hand. A fact sheet can be found [here](#).

GOVERNMENT FOLLOWS LABOR'S ON VARGHESE REPORT – Bowen/Wong/Clare

Labor welcomes reports that the Government will finally commit to implementing the recommendations of Peter Varghese's report into increasing trade between Australia and India.

It's about time. The Government has sat on this report for seven months.

The former Trade Minister tried to bury the report when it was released in July and the Government's delayed response is indicative of a chaotic divided government which is focused on fighting itself.

Last month Labor announced its support for the priority recommendations.

The Government should also commission a report like the Varghese Report to develop ideas to boost trade with Indonesia.

Last month Labor announced it would do this and the government should follow Labor's lead once again as well as back flipping on its embassy decision.

WOMEN

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY – Plibersek/Bowen/Burney/O'Connor

After five years of Liberal governments, Kelly Dwyer's announcements on Wednesday are too little, too late. We'll take a look at the details and listen carefully to women and to what policy experts have to say, but this is a grab bag of measures that go nowhere near far enough.

It's time for Scott Morrison to back in Labor's policies to close the gender pay gap and the superannuation gap. Only Labor has a plan for working Australian women:

\$400 million to boost women's superannuation balances for a more secure financial future – including paying superannuation on Commonwealth paid parental leave.

In our first 100 days, restoring Sunday penalty rates for up to 700,000 workers – great news for hundreds of thousands of women.

Taking action to close the gender pay gap, including greater transparency and accountability for business and government – so if men and women are doing the same work, they get the same pay.

Introducing ten days paid domestic violence leave to the National Employment Standards.

Investing \$88 million in emergency housing, including funding for safe housing options for women and children fleeing family violence.

Proper funding for health and education services that women, and all Australians rely on.

Scott Morrison and the Liberals have had five years to take action on women's economic security but all they've delivered is policies that disadvantage women:

Trying five times to slash paid parental leave, calling working mums 'rotters' and 'double dippers'. (That's why Labor will carefully examine the Liberals' proposed changes to paid parental leave and take advice from families and policy experts).

Arguing against increases to the minimum wage that substantially benefit women.

Throwing their full support behind cuts to penalty rates that disproportionately impact women.

Introducing child care changes that leave 1 in 4 families worse off and mean some women working four days a week actually lose money if they increase their workforce participation.

Attempting to cut around \$35 million from Community Legal Centres that provide crucial legal services to family violence victims.

Abolishing the annual Women's Budget Statement to hide the harmful impacts their policies have on women.

Women's economic security just isn't a priority for the Liberals.

ORGANISATIONS DO 10 DAYS' PAID DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE – O'Connor/Burney

The Liberals have once again been shown up on family and domestic violence leave, with major employers Aldi Australia and the NSW Government announcing that they will provide 10 days' paid family and domestic violence leave to full time and part time employees.

Almost 12 months ago, Labor committed to provide 10 days' paid family and domestic violence leave in the National Employment Standards. With the NSW Liberal government now joining Labor and accepting that 10 days' paid family and domestic violence leave is appropriate, why can't the Morrison Liberal government?

These organisations join other state governments and many private sector employers already providing paid domestic and family violence leave, including Carlton & United Breweries, IKEA, NAB, Qantas, Telstra and Virgin Australia.

These organisations have paved the way and helped reduce the stigma that often accompanies the impacts of domestic violence in the workplace.

The complexity of family violence requires a strategic approach by all levels of government, business and the community.

The Liberals currently have legislation in the Parliament for 5 days' unpaid domestic and family violence leave. There is still time for them to come to their senses and listen to the voices of many who are calling for 10 days' paid leave.

Labor calls on Scott Morrison and his Liberals to amend their legislation for 5 days' unpaid leave and adopt Labor's commitment to 10 days' paid leave. Nothing else will suffice.



The peak body for working people says a Morrison Government plan to allow women escaping violence to dip into their superannuation and take on debt to fund the significant cost of leaving is inadequate.

The ACTU is campaigning for 10 days'

paid family and domestic violence leave, saying that such leave is necessary on both social and economic grounds for women who want to escape violence.

Today Minister for Women Kelly O'Dwyer will announce a plan that will see women escaping violence expected to dip into their superannuation and take out micro-finance loans instead of having a guaranteed right to access paid family and domestic violence leave.

Women currently retire with 47 percent less super than men on average, according to the ASU and Per Capita's Not So Super for Women report.

Paid family and domestic violence leave would cost only five cents per employee per day and has been included in a number of public and private sector industrial agreements, including all NSW Government employee awards.

Both the ALP and the Greens support the ACTU call for 10 days' paid family and domestic violence leave.

The ACTU welcomed some other aspects of Ms O'Dwyer's announcements, including the restoration of the ABS time use survey and changes that will prevent people who have experienced family and domestic violence being cross-examined by their abuser in court.

The changes to paid parental leave are a small step in the right direction. The ACTU has called for the abolition of primary and secondary carers' leave and for 26 weeks' leave to be granted to expecting parents to be used however the family chooses.

ACTU President Michele O'Neil:

"Women experiencing family and domestic violence need leave to be able to leave. It's long past time for 10 days' paid family and domestic violence leave. In 2018 women escaping violent relationships should not have to choose between their income and their safety. And they should not have to spend their retirement savings or take on debt.

Our broken system already sees women retire with 47 percent less than men. Forcing women to dip into their super is likely to make worse women's already inadequate retirement savings.

"Paid family and domestic violence leave is vital for women escaping violence. It's the right thing to do, and every major party except Ms O'Dwyer's recognises that it's time to write it into law."

FIRST PEOPLE

LABOR INVEST \$19.5 M IN FIRST NATIONS GIRLS' EDUCATION Shorten/Plibersek/Dodson **Thousands more First Nations girls will benefit because of Labor's \$19.5 million boost to intensive in-school mentoring designed to lift school attendance, Year 12 completions, and employment rates.**

Labor's investment will create almost 8,000 new places in the Stars Foundation's successful programs to tackle educational disadvantage faced by First Nations girls and young women – tripling the number of girls supported each year.

The Stars Foundation offers full-time, in-school mentoring and engagement programs for young women to help them realise their full potential in all aspects of life.

Existing Stars programs have raised the Year 12 completion rates for Stars students to 96 per cent. In 2017, Stars closed the school attendance gap by 39 per cent in its Northern Territory programs, and more than 90 per cent of its 2016 and 2017 graduates remained in employment or further study a year later.

The \$19.5 million commitment will allow the Stars Foundation to build on its successful programs in the Northern Territory and Queensland and expand into schools across Australia, including in the Kimberley in WA.

It can only be hoped that Scott Morrison's envoy on Indigenous affairs, Tony Abbott, shows support for successful programs such as these.

Currently, fewer than six in ten young First Nations women complete secondary school, compared to more than eight in ten non-Indigenous students. Empowering First Nations women through education delivers improved economic, health and social outcomes for the young women themselves, and for their families and communities.

A good quality education lays the foundation for success in life. Empowering girls and young women will contribute to meeting Close the Gap targets to:

- Improve school attendance and retention rates;
- Increase the number of students finishing year 12 or an equivalent form of work or training; and
- Increase participation in employment.

Stars Foundation has adapted what has been shown to work for First Nations boys through the highly successful Clontarf Academies to develop a program specifically tailored to address the needs of First Nations girls and young women.

Unfortunately, First Nations girls and young women have received significantly fewer opportunities to take part in programs that provide high quality mentoring and school support. This investment will be funded from the education portfolio.

GENUINE PARTNERSHIP NEEDED TO CLOSE THE GAP – Dodson/Snowdon

Reports on Monday that the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has once again failed to properly engage with First Nations people and their representative organisations in the Close the Gap Refresh are deeply disappointing.

This is just another example of this government doing things to Indigenous people, instead of with them.

Nigel Scullion must take responsibility for this mess. His failure to properly consult is putting the Close the Gap Framework at risk.



The Close the Gap Refresh must involve a genuine partnership with First Nations people if it is to succeed.

Without such a partnership, this critical national project will only get further off track.

Labor supports calls from First Nations peak bodies for a proper process of engagement.

There can be no agreement to the refresh unless proposed changes have the support of First Nations people.

Simply agreeing new targets or strategies without the support of First Nations people would be a big mistake.

Currently, Australia is on track to meet just three of the seven Close the Gap targets.

It's clear a new approach is needed; and working with First Nations people is absolutely critical.

That is why Labor supports a Voice for First Nations – so First Nations people can have a say in matters that impact their lives.

The Government dismissal of the proposal for a Voice shows they just don't understand that Closing the Gap must be done in

partnership with First Nations people.

Whether it's in relation to Close the Gap, the Community Development Program, the Indigenous Advancement Strategy or Constitutional Recognition, this government has consistently pursued flawed policies in First Nations Affairs that have not involved First Nations people in their design or implementation.

Labor will ensure that First Nations people have a genuine say in the policy decisions that affect their lives – through a Voice to the Parliament, enshrined in the Constitution.

ROAD SAFETY

GOVT SILENT ON VISA EXPLOITATION AND THE DANGERS TO ROAD SAFETY – Sterle

Four years ago, the Senate established a committee inquiring into Aspects of Road Safety in Australia. The [inquiry](#) covered many areas of the transport sector including the state of the heavy vehicle transport industry, heavy vehicle training, driver shortages and supply chain issues. Most alarmingly however, the committee uncovered the systematic, organised abuse of Australia's visa system by the transport industry when it found that non-citizens on temporary visas were being employed to drive heavy vehicles without the necessary qualifications or accreditation.

This issue was brought to the attention of the committee following a [major traffic incident](#) at the entrance to the M5 tunnel in Sydney on 5 February 2016 in which a team of two unqualified drivers partially jack-knifed their truck when attempting to reverse it out of the tunnel.

The drivers involved in this incident were not qualified to be driving their truck in the first place and they should not have been allowed to drive off after the incident by the authorities.

Given these concerns, the committee pursued the then-Department of Immigration and Border Protection for more information about whether they were aware of further potential exploitation of the visa system by the transport industry.

The committee also learnt that the assessor who granted this driver with a licence was suspended for 12 months after it was discovered that they had granted licences to drivers who had not even sat the practical drivers licence test. The committee recommended in its final report that all visa holders with heavy vehicle driving licences undergo driver skill tests before their heavy vehicle driving licences are recognised in Australia.

The Government and the now Department of Home Affairs have failed to respond to the recommendations in the final report for over a year, In the absence of a response by the Government or the Department to the recommendations of the report, Labor is concerned about the significant threat to road safety in Australia – including unskilled non-citizens on temporary visas getting behind the wheel of trucks. Just two weeks ago, a driver in Wollongong driving a rigid vehicle crashed into the parking lot leaving people in hospital after break failure. It is a miracle that no one was killed.

Labor welcomes the announcement by the Government that the Department of Home Affairs will be investigating this matter further, however it is not good enough to wait for near tragedies like this to occur before action is taken.

More must be done now by the out-of-touch Morrison Government to prevent these accidents from happening – they can begin by responding to the recommendations made in the report to ensure the integrity of Australia's visa system is not being undermined or exploited.



HEALTH

\$8 M TO EARLY CHILDHOOD RESEARCH – Plibersek/Burney/Chalmers/King

The Logan region will have access to world-leading maternal health and community services thanks to an \$8 million commitment from federal Labor for two new projects at Griffith University.

Labor will provide \$5 million to build the new Griffith Centre for Strong Foundations a world-class research, teaching and health service at the Logan campus focussed on pregnancy, birth and the first two years of a child's life.

We know how critical these formative years are for a child's future development.

Labor's investment is about giving kids in the Logan region the very best start.

Local parents and children will be able to access the most advanced services in maternal and child health all in one hub. The hub will be located in a new facility being developed at Griffith's Logan campus. The Centre will conduct health promotion, undertake research and teaching, and look at how to continually improve health services for families.

Labor's will also invest \$3 million to establish a new Regional Innovation Data Lab at the Griffith University Logan campus. This new cutting edge facility will use data from government and business to improve services and planning for the local community.

These investments will make Griffith University and Logan a national leader – working with communities and universities across Australia.

This will mean better evidence about what works in tackling disadvantage, collective impact programs, and improving outcomes for children.

The Regional Innovation Data Lab is backed by local and industry partners. These projects will be funded through Labor's University Future Fund.

HEALTHY HAROLD GETS A LIFELINE FROM LABOR – Plibersek/King

A Shorten Labor Government will reverse Morrison Government cuts to Healthy Harold with a commitment of \$2 million over the next five years. Scott Morrison's 2017 Budget ceased all funding for Life Education, the organisation behind the iconic health education program and their mascot, Healthy Harold the giraffe.

After huge community outcry, the Government partially restored some of the funding for this program – still leaving the future funding for the program in doubt.

Deputy Labor Leader Tanya Plibersek pledged that a Shorten Labor Government will boost Healthy Harold with funding for the next five years, to secure the future of the program for Aussie kids.

Life Education has been teaching Australian schoolkids about the importance of a healthy lifestyle for nearly 40 years.

Across Australia each year more than 710,000 schoolkids benefit from the program in 4,200 schools and preschools where they learn about nutrition, physical activity, personal safety, cyber safety, safe and respectful relationships, and receive drug and alcohol education.

The Morrison Government has form when it comes to cutting services to charities and educational bodies.

In recent weeks the Government tried to cut funding to Foodbank which supplies meals to disadvantaged Australians over Christmas, as well as to 16 other aid and charity groups – only to be forced into a [humiliating back-down](#) when the details came to light.

No-one voted for Scott Morrison to cut funding to a program trying to make our kids healthier.

Life Education Australia Chief Executive David Ballhausen welcomed the announcement.

"We are grateful for any funding that allows us to ensure our children have the knowledge and skills they need to make safe and healthy choices.

"Since its inception, more than 6 million Australian students have benefited from Life Education's program.

"Statistics show us that health messages are getting through to our younger generations: rates of smoking and alcohol and drug use among Australian teenagers are on the decline.

"But there is still work to do. Alcohol still remains the most dangerous drug in society, more than a quarter of Australian children are overweight or obese, and bullying and online safety are huge concerns for parents and teachers.

"We are delighted that our work is recognised as crucial to the future health of young Australians."

EVALUATOR GENERAL: ADDITIONAL THIRD PARTY SUPPORT – Leigh

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

"The plan to establish an Evaluator General is welcomed by the preventive health sector. Public health experts have long relied upon scientific evidence to shape policy, but of late governments have become increasingly averse to acting on this evidence. An Evaluator General, making use of the best tests of effectiveness, like randomised control studies, should give confidence to decision-makers choosing evidence-based policy over the populist nonsense, which all too often passes for public policy. As an independent public health body responsible for injecting strategic research and advocating for evidence-based public policy, FARE supports establishing the Office of Evaluator General." Michael Thorn, Chief Executive, Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE)

"Sound policy evaluation is essential to ensuring that resources are spent efficiently and help achieve the best possible outcomes for those most in need." Professor Deborah Cobb-Clark, School of Economics, University of Sydney

"Better evaluation and a stronger focus on outcomes and impacts can only strengthen government performance." David Crosbie, CEO of Community Council Australia

"The announcement this week by Shadow Assistant Treasurer Andrew Leigh that a federal Labor Government would establish an office of the Evaluator General is welcomed by Per Capita. The basis of all good public policy is evidence. Understanding what works and why by implementing a process of rigorous and impartial evaluation of government programs will help policy makers to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public services. At a time when Australia is faced by multiple challenges including economic and social inequality, the need for urgent action on climate change, population growth and the demand for infrastructure investment, and the need to address the exclusion and material disadvantage of our First Nations people, Australians will be well served by a Labor government that can demonstrate the real impact of its policies, and a willingness to change course when something isn't working. Per Capita is a strong advocate of evidence-based policy. This commitment by Labor to test not only its ideas, but their implementation, demonstrates a genuinely thoughtful and responsible approach to public sector service delivery. It's a grown up approach to government." Emma Dawson, Executive Director, Per Capita Australia

"At a time when the public worries at how much politics is about spin, it's great to see the ALP and its Shadow Minister Andrew Leigh in particular build institutions around which we can build a more evidence-based approach to policy." Nicholas Gruen, Lateral Economics

The announcement has also been described by Crikey's Bernard Keane as *"the biggest development in evaluation in decades"*.

The Evaluator General will be based within Treasury and will work with other departments to conduct high-quality evaluations, preferably randomised trials, of government programs. More detail [here](#).



GOVERNMENT MUST ACT TO PROTECT APPRENTICES – O'Connor/Cameron

News that the Fair Work Ombudsman is again taking legal action against Pulis Professional Plumbing for alleged underpayment of apprentices' raises further concerns the Coalition is not doing enough to protect young workers.

Last year, an FWO audit found 32 per cent of the audited businesses were not paying their apprentices correctly.

The news comes on the back of [ABC reports](#) last week that another employer knew about workplace hazards prior to the death of 20-year-old apprentice Dillon Wu.

These new revelations are of particular concern because the Coalition is about to roll out a costly and ill-conceived new apprenticeship program, the so-called 'bush wage'.

The bush wage subsidy scheme, based on a One Nation policy, is designed to stop the National Party bleeding votes to One Nation throughout regional Australia.

Under the scheme, an astonishing \$37,000 will be spent per apprentice, close to four times the amount the Commonwealth currently spends on other apprenticeships.

Given recent examples of exploitation of apprentices, what guarantees are there that the bush wage subsidy won't attract non-compliant employers?

How much of the \$60 million allocated to the scheme will be spent on ensuring that apprentices won't be exploited?

Instead of encouraging business to invest in critical skills development, the bush wage subsidy just encourages the treatment of apprentices as cheap labour.

Skills Minister Michaelia Cash must guarantee that no apprentice will be exploited under this scheme.

Minister Cash has not outlined what protections are built into the policy to prevent apprentices being exploited and what steps are being taken to deal with rampant exploitation of apprentices exposed by recent FWO reports.

The Minister needs to give assurances that apprentice's will not be underpaid or put into unsafe work environments as part of this scheme.

Unfortunately, Minister Cash's track record on apprenticeships is abysmal.

The Government's projections of 1,630 new apprenticeships arising from the scheme will nowhere near make up for the 140,000 lost under the Coalition.

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

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

GOVERNMENT MUST EXPLAIN WHY IT'S HIDING FROM SKILLS SCRUTINY -Cameron

The Morrison Government must explain why it is hiding from an international assessment of numeracy and literacy skills held by Australian adults. Labor has received advice that the Government has withdrawn Australia from the [OECD Survey of Adult Skills](#).

The survey collects internationally recognised quantitative data for analysis of the literacy, numeracy and problem solving skills of Australian adults.

The OECD Survey of Adult Skills is relied on by governments, academics and advocates for research and to inform policy development on skill formation.

Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Apprenticeships, Senator Doug Cameron, said if the Government withdraws, there will be no way of benchmarking Australia internationally, or assessing whether we are meeting national targets.

"This short sighted decision follows a pattern from this government of avoiding scrutiny and burying evidence," Senator Cameron said.

"One of their first acts in government was to close the Australian Workplace Productivity Agency which was charged with undertaking analysis and research on how to build Australia's skill base."

Senator Cameron said the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has damaged adult and community education as part of its \$3 billion cuts to vocational education and skills.

“The Coalition has closed down the Workplace English Language and Literacy Program, cut funding to the Skills for Education and Employment Program and is mismanaging the Adult Migrant English Program,” Senator Cameron said.

“They wasted \$24 million on a bungled apprenticeship IT system and have had to admit they can’t meet their apprenticeship targets due to their failure to reach an agreement with the Victorian and Queensland governments.”

This latest attack on vocational education comes on the back of the ill-conceived \$60 million ‘bush wage subsidy’, an expensive One Nation inspired policy designed to stop the National Party bleeding votes to Pauline Hanson.

“What possible justification can the Government offer for withdrawing funding to understand and benchmark adult foundation skill levels?” Senator Cameron said.

“This looks like another attempt by the Government to hide its incompetence and failure to develop and implement good policy on skills formation.

“Skills Minister Michaelia Cash needs to come clean on what is happening with the Survey of Adult Skills – and assure Australians that they will participate, along with others in the international community, to take action on adult literacy, language and numeracy skills.”

35 YEARS OF NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS

WEEK - O’Connor/Chesters

Labor acknowledges the 35th National Asbestos Awareness Week. This Asbestos Awareness week commemorates 30 years since the milestone legal victory against CSR by Timothy Barrow, Peter Heys and Klaus Rabenault.

It is fitting, during this week, to note that while we have made significant progress over the last 35 years, serious hazards are sadly still far too prevalent in our communities. According to the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, an average of 4000 people die from asbestos-related diseases each year in Australia, trending upwards.

Labor is proud of its record of being at the forefront of banning asbestos and tackling the risks and hazards associated with asbestos exposure.

It is our hope and determination that asbestos related disease is eventually eradicated in Australia altogether. But, with 700 people diagnosed with mesothelioma last year in Australia, it is clear that more work needs to be done.

Five years ago, we set up the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency. During this time the Agency has worked with governments and stakeholders to implement the first national plan for asbestos eradication, handling and awareness. Something that was not effectively coordinated in Australia prior to this time.

Labor remains committed to ensuring that the Agency plays a critical role in working towards the ultimate elimination of asbestos-related diseases in Australia.

Labor notes that the Agency’s second national plan for asbestos eradication is due to be launched. We are concerned at reports that this may not occur until 2019 - planning for the next five years is too important to let slide.

ALP candidate for Stirling, Melita Markey, is also the Chief Executive Officer of the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia. She will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to Labor’s commitment to ensure the best possible health and safety standards at workplaces and treatment for asbestos related diseases.



HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

INDUSTRY NATIONAL HOUSING PLAN HIGHLIGHTS COALITION INACTION – Cameron

Tuesday’s launch of the Community Housing Industry Association’s national housing affordability plan highlights how little the Coalition has achieved on affordable housing.

Labor welcomes CHIA’s plan and has already committed to a number of recommendations including the appointment of a federal housing minister and development of a long-term housing strategy if elected.

Addressing today’s launch, Opposition leader Bill Shorten reiterated Labor’s intention to level the playing field for first homebuyers through a range of policies including changes to negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions.

Mr Shorten told today’s launch that Labor does not see social and affordable housing as a welfare measure, rather a driver of investment, productivity and job creation.

Shadow Housing and Homelessness Minister, Doug Cameron, said only a Shorten Labor government will address the housing and homelessness crisis created by the Liberals policy vacuum and inaction.

“The previous Labor government invested \$5.6 billion in social housing that delivered about 20,000 new homes, funded repairs and maintenance to 80,000 homes and supported 90,000 jobs through the global financial crisis,” Senator Cameron said.

“We also provided \$6 billion to the states and territories for affordable housing and established the National Rental Affordability Scheme which provided 30,000 new affordable rental housing units.”

Senator Cameron said Labor’s affordable housing strategy will acknowledge the important role that the federal government can play along with the states, territories, local government and the private sector.

“The finance sector, banks and particularly the industry super sector all have an important role to play,” he said.

“Building and funding affordable and community housing isn’t a welfare measure, it’s a critical economic and infrastructure issue that will reduce inequality and increase employment opportunities.

“It is also the socially responsible thing to do because the more unaffordable housing is, the more likely those at the bottom of the market fall into housing stress and homelessness.

“The failure of the Coalition to treat housing and homelessness as an important issue is widening intergenerational inequality. Only a Labor understands the importance of ensuring all Australians have access to stable to long term housing.”

CHILDCARE

OLD CHILDREN SET TO BENEFIT FROM NATIONAL PRESCHOOL PROGRAM - Rishworth

Labor's National Preschool and Kindy Program will see a \$333 million investment for children in Queensland and deliver two years of subsidised early learning.

Last month Labor announced our plans to extend kindergarten access to three year olds and commit to ongoing funding for four year old preschool.

This is the biggest ever investment in early education for children in Queensland.

Under our plan, more than 61,000 three year olds in Queensland alone will be able to access 15 hours of subsidised care.

The Liberal Government have been in such chaos they sent out the 2019 national partnership agreement to the states and territories with barely three months left before the start of the new school year.

Whilst funding for this agreement was announced in February this year, the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison has been so focused on itself that it took 234 days to send this agreement to the Queensland Government.

And, they still refuse to fund kindergarten after next year, meaning the 2019 agreement is the last.

This leaves more than 68,800 four year old kindergarteners in Queensland in limbo.

In stark contrast, Labor's National Preschool and Kindy Program will provide ongoing funding for four year olds from the year 2020. This is funding certainty for all four year olds across Queensland and the more than 3,135 four year olds in Rankin; 3,169 four year olds in Forde; 2,420 four year olds in Blair; and, 2,543 four year olds in Dickson.

Labor's plan is good for children in Queensland, good for parents, and good for the economy:

- **Children** - Studies have shown that children who access quality early education achieve better results in tests throughout their schooling. Early education is particularly vital in closing the disadvantage gap before a child starts school. Labor's plan will see around 340,000 three year olds and a similar number of four year olds able to access kindergarten every year.
- **Parents** – One of the biggest barriers to accessing early education is finance – expanding access will help with the cost of living, help parents balance work and family and help reduce the child care bill for families with children already in early education.
- **Economy** – evidence shows that the return on investment in early childhood education is significant. A recent study from the EU showed that for every dollar spent on early childhood education for 3 year olds, \$4 was returned to the economy.

Labor will work in partnership with the states and territories to deliver this important reform, including in setting enrolment and attendance targets, particularly for Indigenous and vulnerable children.

Only Labor will give every child the early education opportunities they need for the best start in life.

Top ten electorates in Queensland better off under Labor's National Preschool and Kindy Program

	ELECTORATE	3 YEAR OLDS (a)	4 YEAR OLDS (b)	TOTAL
1	Rankin	3,108	3,135	6,243
2	Forde	2,641	3,169	5,810
3	Oxley	2,677	2,759	5,436
4	Leichhardt	2,369	2,759	5,128
5	Fadden	2,255	2,759	5,014
6	Blair	2,567	2,420	4,987
7	Petrie	2,344	2,476	4,820
8	Herbert	2,255	2,539	4,794
9	Longman	2,172	2,541	4,713
10	Dickson	2,058	2,543	4,601

1. Based on information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics

2. Based on information received under FOI from the Department of Education

VETERANS

INVESTING IN GREATER SUPPORT FOR VETERANS IN IPSWICH – Rishworth/Neumann

A Shorten Labor Government will invest in veterans and ex-service personnel in the Ipswich and Somerset Region by providing funding to a Veterans Recovery Centre.

In the Ipswich community and surrounding area alone there are 17 RSL Sub Branches which provide support to our former serving personnel and their families.

Throughout the Blair and surrounding electorates there are more than 16,000 veterans and their families who access support through the Department of Veterans' Affairs and ex-service organisations.

A Veterans Recovery Centre will provide a location for veterans in the Moreton community to access a number of key support services for our veterans and their families.

Despite [promises](#) from the LNP at the [last federal election](#) to [fund this project](#) there has been [no action taken](#).

As such, Federal Labor has stepped up and is committing the \$1 million the Liberals have failed to deliver to this Centre.

This Centre will be a family friendly space which will provide greater support services to our younger veterans and their families, bringing together critical services under one roof, ensuring veterans and their families can access a number of services at any one time. Services and support at the Veterans Recovery Centre will include; access to advocate and pension officers, access to JP services, a library, conference rooms, communal areas, kitchen and barbeque amenities.

Importantly, this centre will also provide a space to our veterans and their families to engage in peer-to-peer support.

This centre will also work as a conduit and support service for our service men and women and their families as they transition from the ADF to civilian life.

This \$1 million commitment from Federal Labor to a Veterans Recovery Centre for Ipswich and the Somerset Region will assist in providing health and wellbeing services to our veterans in the local community and once again highlights Federal Labor's commitment to our veterans, ex-service personnel and their families.

Federal Labor will partner with the local Moreton District RSL and RSL Queensland to provide greater support and assistance to our veterans and their families.

A Shorten Labor Government is working in consultation with our veterans to deliver on real outcomes which provide our veterans with tangible benefits.

COMMUNICATIONS

CORMANN AND FIFIELD REACH NEW DEPTHS OF NBN DELUSION – Rowland/Chalmers

Mathias Cormann and Mitch Fifield, the infamous backers of Peter Dutton, today gave another out-of-touch assessment of their second-rate NBN and stated:

“Shareholder Ministers welcomed the results which confirm the company's solid performance across all metrics”

Of course, we wouldn't expect either of these two dynamic number crunchers to be drawing any attention to the inconvenient “metrics” below:

- **A second-rate network that is \$21.4 billion over budget.**
- **A rollout that is 4 years behind the promised timeline.**
- **A \$900 million hit to taxpayers as a result of the bungled HFC rollout.**
- **The inability of NBNCo to secure private debt which required taxpayers to step in with a \$19.5 billion loan.**
- **A recent three year deferral of when NBNCo was due to repay its government loan from 2021 to 2024 that is yet to be reflected in the budget papers.**
- **A 1,075 per cent blowout in the copper remediation bill to \$640 million.**
- **Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) that has only increased by \$1 in the last two years.**
- **300,000 premises vanishing off the NBN rollout plan – despite the build cost of the rollout increasing by a further \$2.1 billion.**
- **Small businesses reporting they are losing an average of \$9,000 when switching to NBN.**

The Coalition's NBN is in such a mess that even after 5 years in the job Minister Cormann still hasn't found anyone willing to lend NBNCo money on acceptable terms.

All the while New Zealand, the US and the UK have reduced the cost of deploying Fibre to the Premises by between 40 and 50 per cent.

The backers of Peter Dutton should at least have the humility to accept their failures and get on with the job of addressing them – rather than trying to spin results that are at odds with the reality of their second-rate NBN.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT INTO REGIONAL NBN – Jones/Wilson

Labor's welcomes Monday's release of the Joint Standing Committee report into the National Broadband Network in rural and regional areas.

Of primary concern to the Committee was evidence given about the deterioration of NBN's Fixed Wireless service, most likely due to congestion issues.

The regrettable decision by NBNCo to reduce its fixed-line footprint and instead over-subscribe the fixed-wireless network has compounded this problem, leaving regional Australians worse off in the short-term, and taxpayers worse off over the medium-term.

In response to these issues, and with regard to potential future USO pathways, the Committee has made several key recommendations which include:

- **better utilisation of Sky Muster's capacity to provide increased data for customers through expansion of NBNCo's “layer three” capabilities across its fixed-wireless and satellite networks;**
- **a rethink of how NBN fixed-wireless products are structured to improve experience, recognising consumers may be better served by a structure that reflects the characteristics of wireless technology and moves away from replicating fixed line product structures; and**
- **renewed focus on infrastructure sharing in regional Australia to support improved quality of NBN services.**

In a clear policy rebuke to Minister Fifield, the Committee has unanimously endorsed Recommendation 21 which declares the Government's poorly designed Regional Broadband Levy does not constitute a sustainable funding mechanism for regional Australia — a criticism which aligns with the arguments made by Labor, the Productivity Commission and the ACCC.

The Committee has also acknowledged the very raw deal regional Australia has received under the Coalition with respect to the rollout of superior “Fibre to the Curb” under the Coalition with too few regional areas receiving this fibre-rich fixed line technology.

What is clear from this report is that the task of delivering fast, reliable and affordable broadband to the regions is being poorly executed and that the delivery of the NBN project under the Coalition Government has fallen far short of expectations and not matched promises made.

If elected, Labor will seek to work with all sides of Parliament to achieve progress on this important objective.

LABOR WILL RESTORE ABC SHORTWAVE RADIO TO NT – Jones/Snowdon/McCarthy/Gosling

In Alice Springs this week, Shadow Minister for Regional Communications, Stephen Jones MP, joined with Senator Malarndirri McCarthy and the Hon Warren Snowdon MP to announce that a Shorten Labor Government will provide the ABC with \$2 million in funding to help re-establish shortwave radio services across the Northern Territory.

Australians living in remote areas already face significant communications challenges and the loss of access to ABC services from shortwave radio cuts people off from emergency broadcasts as well as being an important connection to the rest of Australia.

The Liberal Government's budget cuts to the ABC forced some bad decisions on the organisation, including the decision to cut their shortwave radio transmissions in January 2017.

Since then, organisations like the NT Government, NT Cattleman's Association, Northern Territory Seafood Council representing commercial and tourist fishing businesses, Amateur Fisherman Association, Indigenous Rangers, long haul transport drivers and the Toyota Land Cruiser Club representing Grey Nomads have raised concerns about the loss of these services.

The Territory is a draw card for grey nomads with around 600,000 visits each year. For remote First Nations communities, shortwave radio equipment is relatively cheap to purchase and does not require external power to operate. By contrast, other forms of communication such as mobile phones, TV and broadband all rely on mains power. In January 2017, Opposition Leader Bill Shorten wrote to then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull asking him to work with the ABC to restore the shortwave. Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator Nigel Scullion [criticised the ABC's decision](#) but was unable to convince his own government to reverse it, again leaving Territorians without a voice in Cabinet.

Labor believes that it was premature to cut ABC shortwave radio services and that if the ABC had not been under intense budget constraints, this decision would never have been made.

Labor has been campaigning against the ABC's decision to cease shortwave transmissions since it was announced in mid-December 2016. We know how important shortwave is, that's why we are switching it back on.

By switching the shortwave back on a Shorten Labor Government will ensure, towns, communities and travellers are connected to the rest of the nation.

Labor's funding commitment of \$2 million to restore ABC shortwave services is in addition to Labor's commitment to reverse the Morrison Government's \$83.7 million unfair cut to the ABC, as well as our guarantee of funding certainty over the next ABC budget cycle.



SOCIAL SERVICES

FUNDING CHAOS NEEDS TO END – McAllister

The Government has bungled the rollout of yet another of its Financial Capability and Wellbeing grant decisions. [Reports this week](#) that Minister Fletcher has extended existing Financial Counselling grants for an additional three months to organisations who recently had their funding cut add to a week of chaos.

This time, Mr Fletcher had no intention of announcing this to the public and instead tried to hide it on the DSS website in the dead of night. Mr Fletcher is clearly out of his depth and has spent the last seven days plugging holes of his own making.

This is the fourth funding backflip by the Government this week.

The rollout of this grant program has been a disaster.

[On Monday](#) the Government back flipped on their cruel cuts to Foodbank.

[On Wednesday](#) the Government back flipped on their decision to cut funding to organisations in NSW and Victoria who run the National Debt helpline by extending their funding arrangements for 12 months.

[On Saturday](#), the Minister back flipped on the roll out of their emergency relief grants across the country by extending grants arrangements to organisations that were recently notified of a cut to funding.

[On Sunday](#), it was reported that there has been a further backflip to financial counselling grants by extending arrangements by three months to organisations that had recently had their funding cut.

This is a Government in crisis. The Minister is unable or unwilling to provide clarity to the sector about how services will continue to be delivered and who will be delivering them.

The funding chaos has come just before Christmas and has caused immense stress to organisations providing front line services to some of our most vulnerable people.

Labor is calling on the Minister to come clean on whether there are more problems with the rollout of these grants.

The chaos surrounding social services needs to stop.

DISABILITY

MORE WORK NEEDED ON NDIS - Burney

Two reports have today highlighted just how much work is needed to get the roll-out of the NDIS back on track.

According to the [latest NDIS quarterly report](#), delays mean the equivalent of 66,000 Australians are missing out on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and almost half of NDIS participants are using less than 50 per cent of their plans.

While the quarterly report provides some good news, including that over 63,000 Australians are receiving support for the first time, it is clear major challenges remain. The National Disability Services' annual [State of the Disability Sector Report 2018](#) also illustrates the frustration of service providers with the rollout.

Three out of four service providers have expressed dissatisfaction with the scheme's bureaucratic systems and processes, which they describe as confusing and difficult to understand.

The reality is the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has neglected the rollout of the NDIS, and while service providers are frustrated, it is ultimately participants who are



paying the price.

Its arbitrary staff cap is hampering the NDIS from being all it can be and delivering for the thousands of Australians with disability.

There simply hasn't been the staff capacity to help get providers ready, and to ease the bureaucratic bottlenecks inhibiting providers from navigating the system.

The NDIS is an important national reform which will improve the lives of thousands of Australians with disability. It deserves the full attention and genuine commitment of government.

The Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government – who has seen five ministers for disability over five years – has dropped the ball on this rollout.

NDIA SHOULD DELIVER FAIR AND CONSISTENT PLANS FOR ALL - Burney

[Reports](#) that the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has forced people to appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal only to see almost 90% of settled claims finalised in secret are concerning. This is symptomatic of the fact that too many participants are receiving poor quality plans and simply not accessing the support they need.

It's incredibly disappointing to see people being made to fight to get the support they need.

This isn't how the NDIS is meant to work.

The NDIA should be delivering plans in an accountable and consistent manner for all participants.

If the NDIA makes a mistake, then it should admit it and fix it.

The rollout of a scheme as big as the NDIS will inevitably encounter challenges, but the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has dropped the ball on the rollout of the NDIS.



TIME FOR ACTION ON A NATIONAL INTEGRITY COMMISSION – Shorten/Dreyfus

On Monday, the Leader of the Opposition has written to the Prime Minister urging him to agree to a bipartisan taskforce, led by the Attorney-General and Shadow Attorney-General, to create a National Integrity Commission.

At the beginning of 2018, Labor announced our plan to legislate for a federal anti-corruption body. All year, the Government has ignored our requests for cooperation.

This issue should be above politics. The time has come for the Liberal and National parties to support a federal anti-corruption body.

A bipartisan process would help ensure the complex consultation and design work can be completed swiftly, and a body established as a priority. In recent years there has been a loss of public faith in government and Commonwealth institutions. The Liberal Party's chaos and division have further eroded Australians' trust in politics.

Labor welcomes the support of members of the cross-bench for a federal anti-corruption body. This provides an opportunity to secure broad parliamentary support to establish a National Integrity Commission before the next election, if Scott Morrison and the Liberals finally come on board.

Mr Morrison delayed the Banking Royal Commission by voting against it 26 times. He should not let his arrogance and stubbornness get in the way of a National Integrity Commission.

Mr Morrison should learn from his mistakes, and join with Labor now so we can work on this issue together.

We are prepared to work with the Liberals, but we will not wait for them.

If Mr Morrison continues to block a National Integrity Commission, a Shorten Labor Government will deliver it. A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

CHILLING EFFECT OF PORTER'S GAG NOW SPREADS TO HOME AFFAIRS- Hill

Letters released by the Auditor-General last week reveal the Department of Home Affairs as the first department to formally flag its attempts to avoid public scrutiny by asking the Attorney-General Christian Porter to use extraordinary powers to gag the Auditor-General, in an audit into the *Cape Class patrol boats*.

This follows an unprecedented decision in June by the Attorney-General to hide the Auditor-General's findings on whether a major defence procurement project delivered value for money for the Commonwealth.

For the first time ever, the Attorney-General's powers were used under Section 37 of the *Auditor-General Act* to force the Auditor-General to delete large slabs of an audit report into a \$2.2 billion purchase of the Australian Army's Protected Mobility Vehicle-Light.

In October the Auditor-General gave public evidence of his concern that more agencies may now threaten to gag him:

"...since this issue has arisen ... I think for the first time in the course of our work agencies are starting to raise with us issues about seeking certificates on matters. So, while some of the conversation's been about how this has only happened once, one of my concerns around some of the issues and processes here is that, for the first time for us, people are starting to flag this as a course of action early in processes. That's one issue that has concerned me since this time." Auditor-General, Mr Grant Hehir, 19/10/18, JCPAA Public Hearing.

The chilling effect on the Auditor-General's independence is now apparent as Peter Dutton's already secretive department becomes the first to formally flag it may seek a certificate from the Attorney-General to censor independent audits:

"...we note the terms of section 37 of the Auditor-General Act 1997—in particular subsections 37(1), 37(2)(e) and potentially 37(2)(f)—and flag a potential application from the Department..."

First Assistant Secretary, Department of Home Affairs, Letter dated 4/10/18 to Auditor-General released 14/11/18

The first ever request to invoke these extraordinary powers came at the request of a private multinational company, Thales, for a certificate under section 37(2)(e) of the

Act, to prevent "unfair prejudice" to their commercial interests.

The Attorney-General tried to cloak his decision to protect Thales' commercial interests, by claiming censorship was needed to protect the "security, defence or international relations" of the Commonwealth under section 37(2)(a) of the Act.

But in evidence provided to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) the Auditor-General revealed that when the draft report was completed for release in January 2018, he *"had worked through all national security issues"* with the Department of Defence which **had no outstanding defence or security concerns** about the audit's publication.



It was only many months after Thales lodged a case in the Federal Court on 5 January and asked the Attorney-General to censor the audit report that Liberal Ministers then claimed the audit report's publication would prejudice Australia's defence and security. While Mr Porter's actions were within the bounds of the Act, and protecting national security must be ensured, it is clear such powers should be used in extraordinary circumstances only. Mr Porter has still not given a valid explanation as to his actions in this case. Labor is the only party of government truly committed to strengthening Commonwealth integrity arrangements, including the introduction of a National Integrity Commission, which the divided Liberal Government continues to oppose. The very least that Australians should expect is that the independence of existing watchdogs like the Auditor-General is protected. This is absolutely central to any claim of credibility of parliamentary control over the executive in the Westminster system. Labor will carefully consider the need for possible changes to the Auditor-General Act after the JCPAA has completed its inquiry.

RIGHTS

EXCUSES RUNNING OUT ON REDRESS – Burney

Organisations must do the right thing, put survivors first and join the scheme without delay.

Too many elderly or ill survivors of institutional child sexual abuse are at risk of not seeing an offer of redress because many institutions have not yet formally joined the Scheme.

This follows at least one instance in which a person died waiting for redress, after the Government reportedly lost his application.

Survivors deserve to have their applications for redress processed quickly and accurately.

Legislation for the redress Scheme was first introduced into the Federal Parliament over a year ago.

Many institutions said they would join the scheme - now they need to follow through with urgency.

Institutions that have not signed up to the scheme have a moral responsibility to do so immediately. The time for excuses has run out.

As we stated when the Redress Scheme was considered by Parliament, Labor has consistently raised concerns about some aspects of the scheme, including:

- **the maximum payment – the Royal Commission recommended \$200,000 but the current maximum is \$150,000;**
- **the indexation of past payments;**
- **fair access for people in prison or with criminal records;**
- **the adequacy of counselling support services; and**
- **the time people have to consider an offer of redress.**

Agreement by the states and territories would be needed in order to get most of these things changed – and if elected, Labor will seek that agreement.

But above all else, we want to see survivors get redress before it is too late.

Survivors have been through so much and have waited so long.

It is simply indefensible for institutions to delay signing up to the scheme for any longer than is absolutely necessary.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BOTCHED EMBASSY DECISION TEARING GOVERNMENT APART - Wong

Scott Morrison's ill-advised and cynical ploy to win votes in Wentworth is tearing his Government apart, with senior ministers now publicly brawling about the proposed move of Australia's embassy in Israel.

On ABC TV last night the Minister for Defence and Industry and former Minister for Trade flatly contradicted the Prime Minister.

"My own personal view is that I think that the current location of the embassy is the right location."

Steven Ciobo, ABC News National Wrap, 18/11/18

His successor as Trade Minister, Simon Birmingham yesterday also made clear his concerns.

"We have to consider that against the UN Security Council resolutions and making sure that we work within the framework of those." **Simon Birmingham, ABC Insiders, 18/11/18**

Meanwhile, Tony Abbott is making clear [the embassy move is non-negotiable](#) if Mr Morrison wishes to retain the support of the hard right of the Liberal Party.

".. do what should be done and that is, put our embassy in the capital of this very friendly country that deserves our support." **Tony Abbott, Sky News 18/11/18**

Christopher Pyne can't make up his mind: this morning attacking his colleagues for publicly debating the embassy decision, and then, just seconds later in the same ABC interview chiming in with his own argument for moving the embassy.

That's prompted Treasurer Josh Frydenberg to denounce Mr Pyne as a *"legend in his own lunchtime."*

"Chris has been giving his opinion freely on this matter for quite a while so I don't know what got into his Wheaties this morning."

"Chris is his own person, as we know. He's quite unique."

"And we'll leave him to be a legend in his own lunchtime." **Josh Frydenberg, Ray Hadley 2GB 19/11/18**

As Labor has said since this proposal was first announced in the dying days of the Wentworth by-election, foreign policy and Australia's national interest are far too important to be played with in this fashion.

The open warfare within Morrison Government is a direct consequence of this rushed, ill-considered decision made with no consultation and no thought to the consequences for Australia's standing in the region, or national security.

As we discovered in Senate Estimates, the decision wasn't taken to Cabinet, wasn't based on any proposal from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Foreign Minister Senator Payne was given just one day's notice, and the media was briefed before the head of the Australian Defence Force.

And now, despite trashing due process ahead of the by-election, the Morrison Government is insisting that the process should be allowed to run its course.

But it's clear from the comments in the last two days that the Morrison Government is bitterly divided and his own people can't even let its own hastily concocted 'review process' take place.

Instead of waiting until Christmas Mr Morrison needs to put Australia's national interest ahead of his own political survival and act now to bring this farce to an end by declaring the embassy move off the table.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SAVE OUR GROCERY UNIT PRICING- Madeleine King

Labor urges the Morrison Government to think twice before scrapping grocery unit pricing. Every day, in supermarkets across the country, Australians use grocery unit pricing to help them make important household budgeting decisions.

Grocery unit pricing lets shoppers see how much something costs per unit measure (e.g. 100g or 100ml), which they can use to compare different brands or different sizes of a product.

It's a simple idea, but it's a powerful one.

It means Australian consumers can answer important questions like: *"Is it cheaper for me to buy 1kg of rice or 5kgs? Which brand of tomato sauce is the best value? Is the bigger tin of baked beans really worth my money?"*

As Consumer Affairs Minister, Chris Bowen and the Labor Government introduced grocery unit pricing to encourage price competition and make it quicker and easier for consumers to compare the price value of products – this is exactly what the policy has been doing for almost a decade. Labor also encourages members of the public to tell the Morrison Government what they think of grocery unit pricing, by [filling out a short consumer survey](#) or by making a [submission to the Treasury discussion paper](#).

Labor is calling the Morrison Government to save this policy and protect the interests of Australians at the supermarket.

GOVERNMENT'S HONEY SILENCE DAMAGING FOR CONSUMERS AND INDUSTRY – King

Labor urges the Morrison Government act on the ACCC's calls for Australia to develop an agreed approach to honey testing. Following their investigations into Capilano Honey, the ACCC found *"there is low confidence in the current test method (the C4 test) used to detect adulterated honey."*

The uncertainty around the quality of honey in Australia is frustrating for consumers and damaging for the Australian honey industry.

The threat of honey launderers infiltrating our supermarkets has been following Australian consumers for months and people are worried they are not getting what they paid for when they go to the shops to buy honey.

Even worse, in cases of adulterated honey, consumers do not know what these non-honey substances are.

Researchers have warned that consumers buying *"blended honey"* may be exposed to *"antibiotics, toxins... or even alkaloids"* that can have serious health impacts. This simply cannot continue.

If consumers do not have confidence in Australian honey, the honey industry will suffer.

There will be less beekeepers and, as a result, less honeybees. Less honeybees means less pollination of crops and this could be devastating to the Australian agricultural industry. Two-thirds of all horticultural and agricultural crops need honeybees for optimal pollination.

Assistant Treasurer Stuart Robert has known about this issue for months, but remains silent. He needs to at least take an interest in how Australian consumers are being cheated and work with the Minister for Agriculture to urgently develop a reliable, trustworthy honey test so Australians can, once and for all, be confident in the honey they are buying.

If the Government continues to let honey launderers taint our industry, the integrity and reputation of the Australia's honey industry – regarded as one of the best in the world – could face irreparable damage. Australian consumers continue to be ripped off while this vapid government sits on its hands and does nothing.

chifleyresearch
centre

PROTECTING THE FUTURE

Federal Leadership for Australia's Environment

LABOR'S GREEN VIEW

This week the official think-tank of the Australian Labor Party, the Chifley Research Centre, released a report on why we need new Federal environment laws and institutions. This is timely with the policy set for debate on the ALP Conference floor in less than a month!

The report is the result of an exciting collaboration between LEAN and the Chifley Research Centre. Together we have spoken to business, Labor leaders, environment advocates, academics and Labor members to nut out the key elements of reform needed to halt the decline of Australia's environment.

We thought you might like a look. Read the full report by clicking on its cover below.

The report endorses the key planks of LEAN's proposal - a new Environment Act within the first term of a Labor Government and independent policy and regulatory institutions to provide the grunt that environmental protection needs.

Hope you enjoy it! Please share it widely with those concerned to better understand the reform that LEAN has been campaigning for and that 470 (yep, that's right 470!) Labor local branches and party entities have endorsed.

Felicity

PS. If you'd like to help LEAN bring this campaign home, could you make a [\\$10 donation](#)? We are truly a "lean" operation, but your support can help us make sure the campaign is big and bold at Conference in December. [Donate here.](#)



I wouldn't say I knew this man but I certainly remembered his cheerful beaming face from the first time I walked through the doors of Pellegrini's when I was working in Melbourne for the ABC in 1980.

I liked the place so much I'd go there for breakfast, a glass of fresh orange juice, a latte and toasted mortadella cheese panini, that I'd often catch a tram back for a simple lunch, pasta, meatballs, roast chicken.

So sad that a man who gave so much to this country and who loved it so dearly should lose his life going for his daily stroll through the streets of a city that was home. [Ed.]

Mr Malaspina, 74, died after he was stabbed in the chest on Friday by 30-year-old Hassan Khalif Shire Ali in a terror attack on Bourke Street.

Pellegrini's Espresso Bar that opened in 1954 has played a fundamental role in Melbourne's enduring love affair with cafes and coffee. An interview, filmed on October 27, reveals a restaurateur proud of the pivotal part the cafe he has co-owned since 1974 has played in the city for more than 60 years.

He said the restaurant served food as it would have been 100 years ago: "That same, pure, simple home-cooking".

"We are still selling the same blend of coffee," he said.

"Our coffee is more than nourishment to the body, it's nourishment to the soul," he said.

"You come to Pellegrini's, you sit in the corner for a moment of reflection, a moment of joy, celebration.

"You just have a coffee to keep you company, it's like a companion, it's like a friend."

Asked what drives him to come to work each day, Mr Malaspina spoke about what the cafe meant to him, hinting at how inextricably it was bound with who he was. "I enjoy what I do. People say, 'I didn't choose, I was chosen'. I wasn't chosen I was born into it. I feel that it's me. It's like a fish in the water – ask the fish why is the fish in the water, I don't know that the fish is able to give you an answer. Same as me." -

David Margan

CURRENT SENATE INQUIRIES 23 NOVEMBER 2018

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Community Affairs References Committee

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

Economics References Committee

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

Economics Legislation Committee

- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Making Sure Multinationals Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)

Economics References Committee

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

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

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

Education and Employment References Committee

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

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

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

Environment and Communications References Committee

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

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

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

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

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

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

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

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

- [New Migration Amendment \(Strengthening the Character Test\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Freedom of Information Legislation Amendment \(Improving Access and Transparency\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Bill 2018, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia \(Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Censorship\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Insult and Offend\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Security\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment \(Strengthening the Commitments for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Judiciary Amendment \(Commonwealth Model Litigant Obligations\) Bill 2017](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee

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

Red Tape Committee

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

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

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

Select Committee into the obesity epidemic in Australia

- [Obesity Epidemic in Australia](#)

Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century

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

Select Committee on Electric Vehicles

- [Electric Vehicles](#)

Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education

- [Stillbirth Research and Education](#)

Standing Committee of Privileges

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



SEEING ITS SUMMER

"We all heard a noise start, and it was getting louder. It was like a jet engine. I'd never heard a noise like it, and then the penny dropped — it was the fire coming." - Testimony of a CFA volunteer