

WEEKLY UPDATE: 10th August, 2018

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THIS WEEK:

This week is the start of our annual EKKA in Brisbane. It is a fantastic opportunity to meet with such a wide range of people – people from remote Queensland, people from our regional towns and communities, and people from around Brisbane – we all come together and we celebrate all things country and each year I really enjoy being able to go along.

This year, again, the EKKA will be impacted by the ongoing drought.

For every day the drought continues our rural families face another day of hardship and they struggle to feed and support their families, and feed and care for their animals.

Our Labor Leader, Bill Shorten, along with Joel Fitzgibbon have been touring rural Queensland and will also meet community and business leaders in Brisbane. They will be discussing the impact of the drought and the struggle for families and communities to survive and better ways to assist.

In doing so, Labor has announced that in government we will invest in over 100 new Centrelink Community Response Officers and boost rural services with two additional Mobile Service Centres doubling the current capacity – to meet the needs of those facing drought or other adversity.

In practical terms, this will stop people falling through the cracks with quicker access to income support, and better links to financial counselling, and mental health services.

Labor will also help drought affected towns get back on track with a \$20 million Regional Economic Development Fund, that will be used to help stimulate local economies and support local jobs. This fund is a targeted investment, based on local knowledge, and will be directed to local government to invest in shovel-ready projects, but also towards diversifying and strengthening local economies for the future. This may include boosting local tourism opportunities and attracting new industries to the regions.

We have also announced that a Labor government will invest \$4.8 million to refurbish the Emerald Hospital Emergency Department bringing much needed modern services to the entire Highlands region and the Queensland

If you'd like to help our people on the land – make sure it's a registered charity whose work goes directly to farmers in need such as the following; • [Australian Red Cross](#) • [Rural Aid/Buy a Bale](#) • [Drought Angels](#) and lend whatever support you can to our farming communities ... as always one of my personal favourites is the CWA who do wonderful and amazing work and who were this week given \$100,000 by the Palaszczuk government to help our country citizens in the most practical of ways.

Earlier this week I was fortunate to be invited to visit the Lady Gowrie Love Street centre as a part of the Early Learning Matters Week campaign.

The campaign brings together 25 organisations to highlight the long-term benefits of early learning for children, for their families and for communities. I am in awe of the work being done by our early learning educators and the history of the Lady Gowrie centres is so impressive. The Queensland Lady Gowrie centre has been operating since 1940 when this and other Lady Gowrie centres were set up "as demonstration centres for children's programs".

The compassion and caring they show the children and the love they so obviously have for their work is amazing. This is a real opportunity for support our early learning educators and to ensure our children have access to quality early learning.

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 ...



THE DROUGHT – SHORTEN-LONGREACH

"We had a great chat with the grazier who runs this property and she made it very clear that plenty of farmers are concerned that the drought cycles are getting longer and longer and the periods of relief and rain shorter and shorter. And she asked a very good question which I think everyone in the Federal Parliament needs to consider: when will Australia have a national plan for agriculture and climate change?"

THE DROUGHT – FITZGIBBON – LONGREACH

"To help guide farmers towards better farming practices and methods; building carbon in soil for example, so that they can retain more moisture. The sort of practices that will put farmers on a path to sustainable profitability. This is an area the Turnbull Government hasn't touched at all. In fact for five years, it has done nothing in this space and indeed, this is the area which is most important - a medium to long term strategy to respond to what is a changing climate and a climate which is going to be, sadly, more challenging in the future."

FOREIGN AID v's DROUGHT AID – SHORTEN- LONGREACH

"There is a debate periodically in Australia from the fringes which says that somehow anything we do helping our near neighbours means that people at home don't get looked after. Labor doesn't share that view. We actually think that a good part of our national security is having stable and secure neighbours. It is in Australia's national interests to have our neighbourhood to be a peaceful jurisdiction."

DROUGHT POLICY – FITZGIBBON-SKY NEWS

"Sadly we have lost five years. The current Government has basically dispensed with the COAG process of developing resilience on our farms."

GBR FOUNDATION -SHORTEN SYDNEY

"Taxpayer money is not the Prime Minister's personal fiefdom to distribute based on how he's feeling on the day. This is taxpayer money. It deserves to be properly expended, properly accounted for, no matter how meritorious the cause. This is why we need the National Integrity Commission. "

GBR FOUNDATION -BURKE – SKY NEWS

"The foundation on top of that, takes 10 percent for its own administrative – in its own administration fees, so \$44 million of this money, walks straight out the door, never reaches the reef, goes directly to the Foundation for its own admin fees.

"I think the money should be returned." - Bill Shorten

GBR FOUNDATION - KENEALLY - 2GB-SYDNEY

"We know that the government did not consult with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority – that's the public body that is tasked to look after the Reef. We just know that this money has been granted, and – on 9 April is when the Prime Minister had this meeting. By 29 April – twenty days later – he's announced it, and by 30 June, the money has left the government coffers. All six years of it - \$444mil – and has gone to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation's bank accounts."



GBR FOUNDATION -BURKE – SKY NEWS

"All that is on the web page is a statement - a claim that they raise \$90 million. The annual reports that they've got on the website do not add up to anywhere near that figure. Now, if they want to claim that they've raised \$90 million they should have to justify it and show where they've raised it. When they were asked about this in the Senate inquiry, they took the question on notice and to this day they still haven't responded."

LABOR GOVT GAVE TO GBR FOUNDATION -BURKE – SKY NEWS

"There was a specific research project dealing with particular strains of coral and the money - the proposal came from the Foundation. They asked for the support, it was assessed by the

department, it ended up being included in the budget and then the payments were made on annual milestones. Not all at once, not all the money leaving on day one, but paid on milestones which were met and that research project came through as an effective role."

NEG -BUTLER ABC NEWS RADIO

"We know that the surest way to bring down power prices over the coming years is to expand renewable energy. What Malcolm Turnbull's current proposition involves is completely strangling the investment and jobs in renewable energy, which we know from all the modelling, will continue to push up power prices rather than bring them down."

"Now he's on another effort, this National Energy Guarantee. I can tell you what ordinary Australians think. They're sick and tired of politicians saying that they've solved energy prices, when in fact they haven't." - Bill Shorten

NEG – ALBANESE- TODAY SHOW

“As late as yesterday afternoon, Annastacia Palaszczuk still hadn't got the documentation that she had requested and the Government goes to a COAG meeting today saying: "Well, we can't actually agree to anything finally because we go to our party room next Tuesday". So this isn't leadership. And the problem that the Government has is that Tony Abbott and the forces around him don't want a solution, they want an argument.”

CENTRELINK - SHORTEN SYDNEY

“We've also been saying that the process to have a better Centrelink system isn't to privatise the system and outsource it to casuals and contractors. I am concerned that the Government is proposing to bring in 1,500 contractors, that they're outsourcing Centrelink; this is not a long-term fix.”

THE PUBLIC SERVICE - CHALMERS – SYDNEY

“Under the Coalition, the public service has been hopelessly compromised by politicisation, by wasted money on consultants and contractors and labour hire, and by failing to provide the sorts of services that Australians need and deserve, particularly when it comes to long waiting times when they're trying to get their Centrelink payments arranged”

HUSSAR - ALBANESE – 7.30 ABC REPORT

“What is absolutely certain is it is not in Emma's interests, nor in the interests of those people who have made complaints and forwarded those complaints in good faith to Mr Whelan's investigation, to have people who aren't aware of the facts, such as myself or yourself for that matter, making further commentary on this matter.”

NBN - ROWLAND- 2CC Canberra

“But what really irks Australians is buck-passing and a lack of accountability, and that's currently what we have when it comes to the NBN. Sometimes when things go wrong a consumer will contact their retail provider and say 'look can you help me fix this'? They will sometimes say 'well unfortunately, that's an issue with the infrastructure involved, so that's a problem with the NBN', and so we have this ping-ping that consumers are subjected to and they don't get resolutions.”

25 MILLION AUSSIES & TURNBULL'S INFRASTRUCTURE FAIL – ALBANESE- ARTICLE

“High Speed Rail will happen one day. The need for decentralisation makes it inevitable. Even if we don't want to build it tomorrow, we should secure the corridor now so it can proceed in the future.

In fact, we should have started securing the corridor back in 2013.

In the same way, we should be acquiring the corridors for other rail and road projects that we know will happen in the future.

Indeed, the independent Infrastructure Australia produced a report last year calling for a formal program of corridor acquisition for future infrastructure projects.

But nothing has happened.”

There's an old saying that if you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

GLIMPSES

BANKED

National Australia Bank charged at least \$3 million in advice fees to more than 4000 superannuation customers who had died. NAB is the second major bank to admit charging dead customers fees, amid a wider fees-for-no-service scandal that may result in more than \$850 million in compensation across the financial services industry.

CASH'S CUP OF TEA CASE

A Federal Court judge has blasted the Australian Building and Construction Commission for its “outrageous” decision to take two union officials to court for having a cup of tea, saying the regulator needed to be publicly exposed for wasting public money. Awarding costs to the Construction Forestry Maritime Mining and Energy Union, judge Tony North stood by previous criticism of the ABCC's handling of the case, saying he had “only become more fixed in my view that it was a completely unnecessary waste of public money”. Justice North in March dismissed an ABCC action alleging the CFMEU and two officials, Mark Travers and Adam Hall, contravened the Fair Work Act by visiting a construction site at Melbourne Airport in 2014 without adequate notice. He said the evidence showed Mr Travers, accompanied by Mr Hall, visited the site solely for social purposes — “to have a cup of tea” — with his friend Rod Duggan, a labourer on the site and a CFMEU shop steward.

ZERO EMISSIONS

A former director of Malcolm Turnbull's old bank and former Goldman Sachs director Keith Tuffley who was on the board of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation when the Prime Minister gave it \$444 million has called for carbon emissions to be reduced to zero by 2050 to save the reef.

MEANWHILE ...

Grant King, Business Council of Australia president and GBRF member, has been criticised for an opinion piece he wrote in the Whitsunday Times on July 24. King, a former chief executive of Origin Energy, wrote in support of coalmining and the need to further develop Gladstone port to increase coal exports.

Matt Rose, an economist with the Australian Conservation Foundation, says King's stance was “completely incompatible with a healthy Great Barrier Reef” and with the GBRF's stated view that climate change was the biggest threat to the reef and that it supported the Paris Agreement. “There are many members of the foundation's chairman's panel who have links to fossil fuel companies, including the president of Peabody Energy, George Schuller,” Rose says. “Across the world, Peabody has actively funded climate denial groups.

WRONG EMISSIONS

Former Federal public service chief John Lloyd breached the public service code of conduct by providing material to his former employer, the Institute of Public Affairs, failing to uphold public service values and the good reputation of his agency, a government inquiry has found.

Lloyd is the man who was placed in charge of enforcing the public service code of conduct as Australian Public Service Commissioner

In extraordinary findings that embarrass the Turnbull government, Merit Protection Commissioner Linda Waugh found Mr Lloyd's decision to provide a document to the IPA about "generous" public sector workplace deals failed to consider the clear risk of potential consequences for his position upholding Australian public service values. "It was clear that such action would likely be viewed by critics as a strategic and controversial initiative by Mr Lloyd to build a coalition of support for his views, and as a political action, if it were to become publicly known as it subsequently did," Ms Waugh found.

Mr Lloyd, by providing the document to the IPA, failed to uphold the APS values (in particular the ethical value) and the good reputation of his agency and the APS was sustained and his actions breached the APS Code of Conduct. But she said the only sanction available to her was a recommendation that he be removed from office for misbehaviour



Documents tabled this week in parliament reveal Mr Lloyd tried to keep secret the decision to hold the investigation, claiming its public disclosure would prejudice the probe. But acting Merit Protection Commissioner Mark Davidson rejected the bid and cast doubt on Mr Lloyd's defence of his interactions with the IPA.

Lloyd's response has been to label the inquiry a, "farce". He resigned shortly after the allegations were first made. As Crikey's Political Editor, Bernard Keane has noted;

"That makes it two for two for this government on industrial relations hardliners: Malcolm Turnbull and Michaelia Cash appointed Nigel Hadgkiss to head the Australian Building and Construction Commission, when they knew he was under investigation for breaking industrial relations laws, only for him to be forced to quit when he was convicted of same. Nice work from a government that regularly slams unions for failing to observe the rule of law."

BUT WAIT ... THERE'S MORE (Crikey)

Michaela Banerji was a Department of Immigration public servant dismissed in 2013 over anonymous tweets she made in 2012 about asylum seeker policy (remember, that was Labor's asylum seeker policy then). The Administrative Appeals Tribunal — including former Liberal senator and ACT chief minister Gary Humphries — eventually found her dismissal "impermissibly trespassed upon her implied freedom of political communication" and that the APS code of conduct requirements couldn't apply to anonymous comments. This, of course, is at odds with the [draconian interpretation](#) of the APS code of conduct promulgated by Lloyd (the IPA is normally a big fan of free speech, but not for public servants who might use it to criticise governments).

Last month Attorney-General Christian Porter [sent the case](#) to the High Court. That is, so enraged is the government at the prospect of public servants anonymously bagging it that they're going to the High Court to try to stop it, blowing wads of taxpayer money to do so.

Then again we know how thin-skinned and glass-jawed the Turnbull government is. How it [breached the privacy of a woman](#) who'd dared to criticise its robo-debt scandal to arrange a public attack on her. How it's prosecuting Witness K and Bernard Collaery for revealing the illegal behaviour of ASIS ordered by the Howard government. How it [sicked the Federal Police](#) onto Labor staffers because whistle-blowers embarrassed the NBN. How Greg Hunt tried to bully critics of My Health Record. How it bombards the ABC with vexatious complaints about journalists, cuts its funding and subjects it to constant review.

But when it comes to its mates, all that malicious rigour in going hard after those perceived to have stepped out of line vanishes. NBN chair Ziggy Switkowski egregiously breached the caretaker convention during the 2016 election campaign but had no sanction from the government. John Lloyd breaches the very code he's supposed to be the principal guardian of, and faces no sanction. Michaelia Cash continues as a minister despite the referral of her staff to the DPP. National security leaks are fine when they target Labor figures like Sam Dastari.

One rule of law for them, another one for us.

CAR CRASH CONTINUES

Barnaby Joyce yesterday embarked on a wall-to-wall media blitz talking up weight loss, bonded on the benefits of a younger girlfriend and revealed he was "supporting two families" while desperately plugging his crude tell-all book despite just months ago repeatedly demanding his privacy. In several of his seven shameless book-spruiking interviews yesterday, Mr Joyce targeted the Prime Minister over the bonk ban, accusing Malcolm Turnbull of using the former Nationals leader's affair with former adviser and mother of his child, Vikki Campion, for "political advancement"

GENDER BREAKDOWN

With the annual "Diggers and Dealers" mining conference underway in Kalgoorlie this week, it's time to recognise the extraordinary progress that the conference — once best known for the prominence accorded to skimpily-clad barmaids — has made on female participation.

This year, there are two female speakers on [the three-day speakers program](#). That's two women in 50 slots, or 4%. But if you think that's bad, last year there was [just one female presenter](#). At this rate, there'll be gender parity at Diggers and Dealers in the early 2040s.

TOO LATE

Liberal senator Dean Smith has warned Malcolm Turnbull that a failure to listen to the mood of voters will "seal our electoral fate" as he ramps up pressure on the government to support a Senate inquiry into population.

[Pity they hadn't taken notice of Labor party policy development on infrastructure, population and our cities over the past five years ably led by Anthony Albanese, Jim Chalmers and Andrew Leigh — David Margan, Editor]



YOUR HEALTH - THEIR DATA

The federal government's controversial My Health Record program is capable of storing genomic data, such as cancer risks, using technology that both has huge research applications and highlights privacy and security concerns.

The Sydney Morning Herald reports that genome-sequencing company Genome One, which can track genetic variations and therefore disease risks, has built "necessary infrastructure" for uploading sensitive genomic data into the opt-out system. University of Canberra privacy expert Bruce Arnold has criticised the inherent risks of DNA-tracking technology and, just a week after the government back down on [police access to My Health Records](#), today's news as again demonstrating a lack public consultation.

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IMPORTS – The Australian

Reserve Bank governor Philip Lowe has used the population milestone of 25 million people to highlight the economic benefits of immigration, skirting over concerns championed by Tony Abbott about excessive growth. Doubling down on an optimistic outlook of falling unemployment and rising wage growth, the governor said the nation's population growth rate – at 1.5 per cent a year and consistently among the highest in the world – was a "basis for optimism about the future of our economy". It had produced a younger, more economically resilient nation, he told a business lunch in Sydney yesterday. "The movement to Australia of large numbers of young people over the past decade has changed our demographic profile in a positive way," Dr Lowe said, pointing out that Australia's median age of 37 years made it "one of the youngest countries among the advanced economies". "Migration has helped our economy adjust to large swings in the demand for labour, and helped address some particular skills shortages."



EXPORTS

The Age reports that the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility and the Refugee Advice and Casework Service will tomorrow ask Qantas to follow the lead of UK-partner Virgin Atlantic and several US companies and pledge not to involuntarily deport passengers, either through refolement or to points of indefinite detention. ACCR will also call on Qantas shareholders to co-sign a resolution pressuring the company to disclose risks involved in transfers.

Protests are reportedly planned at Qantas and Virgin offices in Sydney and Melbourne today, while a company representative has since responded to the campaign saying, "the government and courts are best placed to make decisions on the legal immigration status of individuals seeking to remain in Australia, not airlines".

GET ME OUT OF HERE

More than 1 million Australians changed employers or the business they ran in the 12 months to February 2018, according to statistics released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) today.

ABS Chief Economist Bruce Hockman said that more than half of those who had changed employers or businesses were working in a different industry or occupation in February 2018.

"We can really see the dynamic nature of the labour market with the estimates from the Participation, Job Search and Mobility survey," Mr Hockman said. "Too often the monthly employment estimates from the Labour Force Survey are interpreted in a static way."

In addition to revealing aspects of churn in the labour market, the data is useful for understanding what difficulties people face when they are trying to find a job. Mr Hockman said this latest data indicated perceptions around difficulties in securing employment have changed since 2008.

"In February 2018 the share of unemployed who cited 'too many applicants' as being the main difficulty in finding work had more than doubled when compared to 2008," Mr Hockman said. "This suggests people feel there is a lot more competition for jobs than there used to be."

The top three reasons people who were unemployed cited in 2018 as being the main difficulty in finding work were:

Too many applicants for available jobs; no vacancies in line of work; and unsuitable hours.

Further details can be found in *Participation, Job Search and Mobility, Australia, February 2016 (cat. no. 6226.0)* available for free download from <http://www.abs.gov>.

GO WEST

WA's grain farmers could pump a record-breaking \$6 billion into the economy this harvest thanks to a combination of high prices and good rains. Some farmers could end up with gross incomes 40% to 70% above expectations because of soaring grain prices and ideal growing conditions, according to 'MarketAg' director Richard Vincent. 'It has been at least 10 years since seasonal and pricing factors worked in farmers' favour'.

COAL ON THE NOSE

In more bad news for the coal industry, two of the world's biggest reinsurers say they will no longer accept risks from companies with a big role in the industry. Munich Re is the world's biggest reinsurer (that's an insurance company that insures the risks that insurance companies can't handle or want protection against) and [has just announced](#) the company will no longer accept risks involving companies who get 30% or more of their revenues from coal-related businesses.

"In the individual risk business, where we can see the risks exactly, we will in future in principle no longer insure new coal-fired power plants or mines in industrial countries," CEO Joachim Wenning wrote in a German newspaper yesterday. Swiss Re, the world number two reinsurer by market value, announced last month it would not reinsure any company, for which thermal coal (used to power generation, as opposed to metallurgical coal) represents more than 30% of its business, following French reinsurer Scor.



FINED – Brisbane Times

More than 13,000 Brisbane residents successfully overturned at least \$850,000 in Brisbane City Council-issued parking fines in 2017-18. Officer error and faulty meters were in the top five reasons for a parking fines being cancelled, along with meters paid but with incorrect registration or meter, resident parking permits not being displayed and compassionate or reasonable doubt grounds. An East Brisbane man was [fined \\$126 for parking across a driveway he claimed was blocked by a tree](#) in January.

After appealing the fine it was withdrawn in February.

HISTORY'S JUDGEMENT

Turnbull Government 'writes itself out of history'

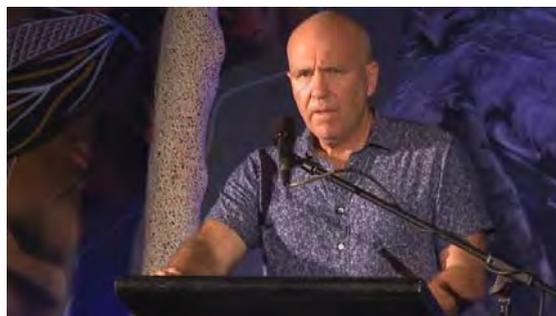
The Prime Minister has "humiliated" Indigenous leaders and squandered a chance at reconciliation, said Australian author Richard Flanagan.

In a searing address at the Garma Festival, the Man Booker prize winner said the government lacked courage and compassion.

"The Uluru Statement was a historic moment for our nation. By refusing it, the Turnbull Government chose to write itself out of history," he said.

"The effort it demanded of Canberra was perhaps too large — it demanded it imagine the country anew, stronger, richer. It required people who knew a life of the mind and a life of the soul.

"A government that claims to be of good heart to Indigenous Australia publicly humiliated a generation of great black leaders."



GOING WELL

A Deloitte's report has said there had been a 15 per cent increase in the value of Queensland's construction work in the past year.

Queensland's rate of planned investment is well above the value of definite work, with the report revealing Queensland's planned projects are the highest in the nation at about \$130 billion, while the value of the state's definite projects is about \$40 billion.

THE FARM

LABOR WILL HELP DROUGHT AFFECTED TOWNS RECOVER – Shorten/Jones/Fitzgibbon

A Shorten Labor Government will help drought affected towns get back on track with a \$20 million Regional Economic Development Fund, that will be used to help stimulate local economies and support local jobs.



New South Wales and Queensland have been battling severe drought, with parts of Western Queensland like Longreach, drought declared since 2013.

With no rain in sight, and hot and dry conditions predicted over spring and summer, the severe and harsh conditions are taking a terrible toll on farmers and their families.

As assistance to farmers is rolled out, drought-affected towns and their local economies dealing with the flow on effects of the drought will also need support to get back on track.

Labor will create a new \$20 million fund to stimulate local economies and support local jobs. The Fund will continue the work of the existing Drought Communities Programme that the Government has failed to fund beyond this financial year, and be re-designed to provide local communities with the support they need.

This fund is a targeted investment, based on local knowledge, and will be directed to

local government to invest in shovel-ready projects, but also towards diversifying and strengthening local economies for the future. This may include boosting local tourism opportunities and attracting new industries to the regions.

Labor knows the crucial role local councils play in the regions. Local councils know what the community needs to get back on track – which is why we will work directly with them to fund projects.

Projects which could expect support under this fund include local road and street infrastructure, and small-scale capital developments like community facilities and sporting fields. For example, the Palaszczuk Government's initiative to erect wild dog fencing around Western Queensland, which provided a big boost to the region's sheep industry, is exactly the sort of practical economic-boosting projects it is envisaged this fund will support.

This new fund is all about providing that extra bit of targeted assistance direct to local councils, harnessing the local ideas and know-how only held by those on the frontline of the drought.

Labor knows the strength and resilience of Australia's rural and regional communities. Our regions have a bright future, and we want to ensure they have all the help they need to get back on track.

REGIONAL

LABOR TO INVEST MILLIONS IN EMERALD EMERGENCY DEPT Shorten/King/Ketter/Beers

A Shorten Labor Government will deliver better emergency care for the people of Emerald and the surrounding region with a major hospital upgrade. Labor will invest \$4.8 million to refurbish the Emerald Hospital Emergency Department as part of our commitment to building better hospitals in Queensland.

The investment will completely modernise this outdated and overstretched ward – improving quality, safety and confidentiality for patients. The refurbishment will deliver:

- A new dedicated resuscitation cubicle
- Improved patient and clinical work flows
- The latest clinical equipment
- Better patient observation

- More patient privacy
- And the ability to provide enhanced models of care

Patients at Emerald Hospital often complain their privacy is compromised in the current emergency department. The current facilities also make it hard for the hospital to attract and retain some clinical staff.

This upgrade will mean people across the Central Highlands will be able to get safe, compassionate care delivered to the highest standards close to home.

A Labor Government will work with the Queensland Government to complete the upgrade by 2022. The investment will be made under Labor's \$2.8 billion Better Hospitals Fund, which will fund better facilities and more services across the nation.

Labor can afford to properly fund Australia's hospitals and health care because we're not giving \$80 billion away to the top end of town, including \$17 billion to the big banks. We know that the people of Queensland and the people of Australia value affordable, quality health care over tax cuts for millionaires.

Malcolm Turnbull has cut billions of dollars from hospitals across the state and across the nation. Only Labor will invest in building better hospitals in Queensland.



THE GOVERNMENT'S REEF ARGUMENT IS COLLAPSING - Burke

The entire basis the Government gave for its half a billion dollar give away to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation has collapsed.



Great Barrier Reef Foundation

The reason the Government gave was they repeatedly said that this Foundation was capable of leveraging \$80 million or \$90 million worth of private money. The Foundation has been claiming \$80 million; the Government's been claiming \$90 million.

The Foundation have recently posted information on their website which states that "64%" of the \$90 million they have allegedly raised is "private and corporate philanthropy". By their own accounting, that would mean their actual fundraising is only around \$57 million.

The Government's Environment department website says that the Foundation has "generated around \$80 million from private and philanthropic sources".

Minister for the Environment Josh Frydenberg has said on ABC Radio that the Foundation has been chosen "Because they are the best organisation to leverage off the private sector. They've raised more than \$80 million themselves."

It is clear that the Government has not checked these figures and The Environment Department has not gone through the annual reports to verify these claims.

The Auditor-General announced yesterday that the \$444 million deal will be considered for audit this

financial year. Labor welcomes this decision.

Half a billion dollars has been given away on trust and now the Foundation is admitting its private fundraising is lower than people have been led to believe.

The Foundation has already made clear it intends to keep \$44 million for itself for "administration". That means the Foundation will be spending taxpayers money on administration faster than it has managed to raise corporate donations since its inception.

The Government and the Auditor General need to look into these figures.

It's clear Malcolm Turnbull is trying to privatise the management of the most precious and fragile environmental asset we have.

MALCOLM TURNBULL, WHAT HAPPENED IN THOSE 11 DAYS? - Burke

In extraordinary new revelations, the Australian has today reported that the Expenditure Review Committee determined to "seek a commercial partner for a (Great Barrier) reef plan" on 28 March 2018. This was 11 days prior to the meeting with the Prime Minister, Josh Frydenberg and Dr John Schubert where he gave the foundation \$444 million of public money.

The following questions need to be answered.

- During those 11 days who else did the Government meet with to consider who would be the best business partner?
- Given the Environment Department has said it did not look at annual reports before 2011 how did the Government ascertain how much money it believed the Foundation was capable of leveraging?
- Did the Government conduct any assessment on the cost to the taxpayer of the duplication of administration costs?
- Did the Environment Department, as is normal practice, undertake a risk assessment of the grant and the Foundation?
- Where is the documentation, from the Environment Minister or the Environment Department that outlines why a different approach to competitive tendering was used for the grant?
- Did the Environment Minister write to the Finance Minister regarding an ad hoc one off grant? Or did the Environment Department consult with the Department of Finance?
- What date did the Government make contact with Dr Schubert to organize the meeting to tell him of this half a billion dollar funding announcement?

Labor is pleased to see that the Auditor General is considering undertaking an audit of the design of the grant. Labor has raised serious concerns about the way the grant was awarded to the Foundation. The Auditor General also needs to consider reviewing how the decision to award nearly half a billion dollars was made, why the Foundation was chosen and what analysis was undertaken by the Environment Department to determine the Foundation's fitness to award a grant of this size.

All of these questions have one thing in common, and that is who was at the centre of every one of these questions? Mr Turnbull.

Labor has launched a [petition](#) calling on the Prime Minister to secure the return of the \$444 million of public money he gifted to this small, private organisation.

LABOR CALLS ON MALCOLM TURNBULL TO RETURN THE REEF MONEY - Burke

This week on the ABC program 7:30, the Prime Minister was unable to point to any policy or probity behind his decision to award almost half a billion dollars of taxpayers money to a Foundation with six staff. He then went on to make a series of misleading claims.

Turnbull claim: Under Labor, the Great Barrier Reef was put on the 'Endangered Watch List by UNESCO'

Fact: There is no "Endangered Watch List". UNESCO has a 'World Heritage List', a 'Tentative list' and an 'In Danger List'. The Government has repeatedly referred to a Watch List but UNESCO has no such list.

Turnbull claim: The Great Barrier Reef is now off the in danger list

Fact: the Reef has never been on the in danger list.

Turnbull claim: This was approved by the Parliament in legislation when the appropriations bills were passed.

Fact: It is difficult to think of a more absurd claim. The appropriations bills if blocked bring all Government spending to a halt. A claim that the Parliament approves of every government spending decision unless it blocks supply and brings the nation to a halt is ridiculous.

Responsibility for this cash splash lies squarely with the Prime Minister and it has been a careless use of taxpayer's money. There are massive holes in the contract and secrecy provisions that are in perpetuity. We will never know how some of it is spent.

When asked how will the public know that this Foundation will be the best to handle half a billion dollars of taxpayer's money, the Prime Ministers response was "that's the judgement we took as Government."



It is clear even the Foundation thought that this was not a proper process, their response was to say - 'it was like winning Lotto'. This is not the way to run a Government. It is a grossly irresponsible way to treat our most precious and fragile environmental asset.

[Labor launched a petition today calling on the Prime Minister to secure the return of the \\$444 million of public money he gifted to this small, private organisation.](#)

All roads lead back to Malcolm Turnbull and he needs to clean up this mess.

TELEVISION INTERVIEW

ABC 7:30

MONDAY, 6 AUGUST 2018

LEIGH SALES (HOST): Let's whip through other things that people will likely talk about when you resume next week. Can you explain why you gave a \$500 million grant to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation without any tender process, grant application or competition?

MALCOLM TURNBULL: Well it was a very thorough process, a whole Cabinet process leading up to the budget.

SALES: Before or after you offered the money, did the Cabinet process happen?

TURNBULL: It all went through beforehand. We had a whole ERC process. We concluded we wanted to offer the Great Barrier Reef Foundation...

SALES: How did you settle on them? **They said they never asked for money.**

TURNBULL: Well, that is right. But They are an outstanding reef charity. They have had substantial money from the Federal Government before, including from a federal Labor government.

SALES: But we have to take your word on that because there wasn't a tender process.

TURNBULL: You don't have to take my word for it, it's a fact. Tony was the former Environment Minister...

SALES: Burke.

TURNBULL: Yeah, Tony Burke, he provided I think \$12 million to it.

SALES: But how do we know that for the use of this money, an enormous investment in the reef, how do we know that they are the best to spend that \$500 million?

TURNBULL: That's the judgement we took as Government.

SALES: Why wouldn't you put that to competitive tender?

TURNBULL: Because they were clearly the best team to do it. Can I say to you, Leigh, what the Labor Party are doing now is they are embarrassed they did not put serious funding into the reef. Under the Labor Party's watch, the reef was put on the endangered watch list by UNESCO. Because of our good management it has come off the endangered list. The management of the reef is regarded as the best in the world. We put this

substantial amount of funding into it. The Great Barrier Reef Foundation attracts substantial funding from the private sector, it has support from the Queensland State Government and this grant, by the way, not only went through a Cabinet process, it actually went, it's in the budget, it was voted on in Parliament. It's in an appropriations act.

SALES: In an appropriations act, not as stand-alone legislation.

TURNBULL: It's been considered and approved by the Parliament.

JOSH FRYDENBERG HAS NO IDEA ABOUT THE GREAT BARRIER REEF - Burke

This week in an interview with Fran Kelly on Radio National, Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg was asked to defend the Government's half a billion dollar gift to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. In response Mr Frydenberg refused to answer questions, made claims that are not supported by any available facts, and made other claims which are demonstrably false.

Frydenberg claim: the Great Barrier Reef Foundation has raised more than \$80 million from the private sector

Fact: the Department of Environment confirmed at Senate Estimates last week that it doesn't even have access to the Foundation's annual reports before 2011. Preliminary analysis of the Foundation's annual reports since 2000 by Senator Kristina Keneally suggests the Foundation has raised closer to \$44 million from the private sector. What's Mr Frydenberg's evidence for the claim?

Frydenberg claim: under Labor, the Great Barrier Reef was put on the Endangered Watch List

Fact: the World Heritage Committee manages a number of lists with respect to World Heritage sites. There is no Watch List. The Government has repeatedly referred to a Watch List but no such list exists.

Frydenberg claim: Labor made a similar grant to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation

Fact: Labor had a \$12.5 million measure over four years for a specific research project of the Foundation. The money was provided each year, not as a lump sum, and the Foundation was not the gatekeeper for the ordinary work of Government agencies. In contrast, the Minister has decided to gift nearly half a billion dollars to the Foundation in a single lump sum. The private Foundation will now be the gatekeeper of public money.

Frydenberg claim: Labor failed when in office to do anything to invest on the Reef

Fact: Labor established the Reef Rescue program worth \$200 million up until 2013 and provided a further \$200 million in funding for the program budgeted through to 2018. Labor also established the Coral Sea Marine Park to provide a conservation buffer area around the Reef. The Abbott-Turnbull Government has cut the highly protected area of the Coral Sea in half and introduced a massive trawling zone immediately adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef.



Frydenberg claim: Labor had five dredge disposal projects

Fact: None of the projects Mr Frydenberg refers to were approved under Labor.

When Radio National host Fran Kelly asked the Minister whether CSIRO researchers will now be forced to go to the Foundation for scientific research money, he refused to answer. There is no doubt that a private foundation has now become the gatekeeper of nearly half a billion dollars of public funds.

The Environment Department, Institute of Marine Science, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and the CSIRO will all now find themselves seeking permission from a private foundation when they require funds for new reef projects. This is an unprecedented, careless and irresponsible way to manage taxpayers' funds on our most precious and fragile environmental asset.

RADIO INTERVIEW

ABC RN BREAKFAST

MONDAY, 6 AUGUST 2018

FRAN KELLY (HOST): Just finally, the Barrier Reef and issues starting to generate some heat around the Government. That \$440 million grant to the corporate backed Great Barrier Reef Foundation. Almost half a billion dollars to a foundation that we now know never asked for the money, the money was handed over without a tender, you were at the meeting when the Prime Minister offered the grant. It's still a mystery, why are you giving such a large sum to a private group to do the work that for instance the environment department previously did, why?

JOSH FRYDENBERG: Well, the Commonwealth is making a record half a billion dollar investment in the Great Barrier Reef and this has been backed by the Marine Park Authority by...

KELLY: So why for one small philanthropic organisation?

FRYDENBERG: Because they are the best organisations to leverage off the private sector. Now they've raised more than \$80 million themselves...

KELLY: That's contested in the Sydney Morning Herald today, I'm sure you've seen that.

FRYDENBERG: Can I just say, they have raised tens of millions of dollars from the private sector. They are made up of scientists as well as philanthropists. They are made up of people that the Labor Party backed when they were in Government. Tony Burke, then environment minister, put out a press release in 2012 which said very clearly "we are giving money to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation to protect the unique values of the reef."

KELLY: That was one grant, not the whole grant sum.

FRYDENBERG: No because the money will go through the reef to our scientists, to ensure that they can protect and develop a more heat resistant coral, it will go to our farmers so that they can reduce the pesticide nitrogen...

KELLY: But Minister can I just clarify this, is it as the Opposition says that CSRIO researchers will now be coming to this philanthropic organisation for scientific research money?

FRYDENBERG: Nothing is as the Labor Party says. This is only a distraction from the Labor Party's failure from when they were in office to do anything to invest on the reef, that's why it went on the endangered watch list, that's why they had 5 dredge disposal projects, that's why they're embarrassed by their record.

ENERGY POLICY

PARTY ROOM DIVISIONS RAMP UP OVER NEG – Mark Butler

In the latest sign of the Coalition's division and chaos over energy policy, the Prime Minister has incorrectly claimed his party room has signed off on the NEG.

Once again the Chair of the Coalition's backbench committee on climate and energy, Craig Kelly, has shot a clear warning to Malcolm Turnbull and Josh Frydenberg that the NEG does not have support, telling The Guardian *"realistically we would need more time to consider this,"* and *"there is a lot of complex detail yet to be released."*

Completely trashing the Prime Minister's claim yesterday that the NEG has *"been endorsed by the party room already and will be endorsed again."*

Federal Labor has been consistently supportive and constructive over energy policy, offering bipartisan support for an investment framework that would deliver investor certainty and start to bring an end to the energy crisis that has emerged under Malcolm Turnbull and seen power bills skyrocket for Australian households and business.

We know that the surest way to bring down power prices is to build more renewable energy, but under Malcolm Turnbull's pathetic emissions reduction targets the NEG will not see one large-scale renewable energy project built for the entirety of the 2020s, stifling investment and pushing power prices up.

As more Liberal and National members come out to criticise the NEG, the states and territories are absolutely being proven right to demand to see how Malcolm Turnbull will compromise to appease the hard-right of his party room on Tuesday.

PUBLIC SERVICE

FINDINGS SHOW ANOTHER AGENCY POLITICISED BY LIBERALS – O'Connor/Chalmers/Farrell

The Turnbull Government's reputation for politicising agencies has once again come under fire with findings of the report in to the now departed Public Service Commissioner John Lloyd, concluding his actions were *"political"* and breached the APS code of conduct.

The Public Service Commissioner is supposed to be an impartial officer who upholds the values of impartiality in the public service. In relation to his links with the IPA, merit protection commissioner Linda Waugh said that Mr Lloyd failed *"to uphold the good reputation"* of his agency breaching section 13(11) of the APS code of conduct.

The Turnbull Government has presided over a number of politicised appointments and agencies, including Mr Lloyd, the discredited Registered Organisations Commission, former ABCC Commissioner Nigel Hadgkiss, and the stacking of the Fair Work Commission.

It's no surprise the disgraced former commissioner has had these findings against him. Mr Lloyd was biased when he was the Public Service Commissioner and he remains biased today.

His conduct in the role and his following resignation is an indictment on the Turnbull Government.

Labor believes that our hard working public service and Australian tax payers deserve better. We can only hope the new commissioner restores the integrity and respect that comes with the position.

LIBERALS PRIVATISING CENTRELINK PIECE BY PIECE - Burney

Reports of more outsourced Centrelink jobs today are nothing more than taking with one hand and giving with the other.

The Government doesn't deserve any congratulations.



Over the last two years alone, the Turnbull Government has cut around 2,500 jobs from the Department of Human Services, and it has become more difficult for Australians to contact and access Centrelink.

The Government is addicted to outsourcing and is privatising Centrelink piece-by-piece. Centrelink programs and income support are complex. That's why it's so important for Centrelink to have permanent staff who are trained and skilled to manage and assist the community.

There have been consistent reports of poor practices and standards at outsourced call centres. Labor is very worried about compromised service delivery, insecure working arrangements, lower wages, reduced conditions and poorer quality training.

The Government also has very serious questions to answer about how much sensitive private and health information will be put in the hands of private companies, and what

protections are in place.

Pensioners, carers, families and people with disability need to come first, not profits.

Under the Government pensioners, students and carers are waiting hours on the phone to speak to someone at Centrelink; and living on the edge of their savings while they months for their payments to arrive.

PHONE WAIT TIMES

Payment type	2016-17	2017-18 as at 31 March
Older Australians	18 minutes and 59 seconds	23 minutes and 1 second
Students	31 minutes and 15 seconds	35 minutes and 0 seconds
Families	16 minutes and 19 seconds	21 minutes and 12 seconds

PROCESSING WAIT TIMES

Payment type	2016-17	2017-18 as at 31 March
Age pension	36 days	49 days
Carers payments	28 days	47 days

LABOR TO BOOST APS EFFICIENCY, JOBS AND SERVICES – Chalmers/O'Connor

A Shorten Labor Government will improve efficiency in the Australian Public Service and end the Liberals' wasteful spending, while boosting service delivery and jobs.

Labor will not proceed with the remaining 0.5 per cent additional efficiency dividend next financial year.

Our \$394 million investment will save an estimated 550 jobs and ensure valuable experience, expertise and corporate memory is retained within the public service.

Labor will offset our decision not to proceed with the additional efficiency dividend by cracking down on significant blowouts in contractors and consultants on the Liberals' watch, as well as spending on travel.

Our commitments will help ensure the public service offers taxpayers bang for their buck and delivers the quality services all Australians rely on. Analysis of the AusTender website shows the Government has more than tripled labour hire spending, from \$307.6 million in its first year in 2013-14, to more than \$1.1 billion in 2017-18.

We'll address the Liberals' wasteful spending on contractors and consultants by reining in contracts for management, businesses professionals and administrative services, and agencies will ensure APS employees take on a greater role in IT projects.

Where appropriate, Labor wants the work of the public service to actually be done by public servants.

The Liberals' stunning false economy means one perceived saving on public servants ends up costing taxpayers much more in consultants and contractors.

On travel, Labor will reduce travel spending across the public service by 10 per cent.

Despite record and growing debt and public service numbers being slashed under this Government, travel spending has climbed to well over half-a-billion dollars a year.

Travel is often beneficial and necessary, but more can be done to get spending under control, including a greater focus on alternatives such as tele and video conferencing.

LABOR TO INVEST IN 1200 PERMANENT DHS JOBS - Burney

A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$196 million in 1200 new permanent and full-time Department of Human Services staff around the country, improving waiting times and services Australians rely on.

In the last two years alone, the Liberals have cut about 2,500 permanent jobs from Centrelink. They've tried to hide their cuts with temporary, outsourced jobs and now expect a pat on the back for doing so.

The Liberals' obsession with privatising Centrelink and Medicare staff has left morale at an all-time low and has consequences for service delivery, insecure working arrangements, reduced working conditions and privacy.

For too long, people have had to spend hours in queues, on hold, or forced to use inflexible Government websites while being neglected by the Liberals.

Under the Liberals, call wait times and payment processing times have blown out substantially – in 2016-17, there were 55 million unanswered calls to Centrelink, more than double the 22 million in 2014-15.

Centrelink programs and income support are complex, which is why it's so important to have permanent staff who are properly trained and skilled.

The additional jobs Labor has announced will go some way to restoring the Liberals' harsh cuts, which have hurt Australians who rely on critical services.

Among the new jobs will be specialist roles the Liberals have axed, including Indigenous customer service officers, Indigenous support officers, multilingual roles, and outreach roles.

These new jobs will not only improve service delivery, but will boost the local economies where they are situated. More information about the location and structure of these roles will be announced.

Labor can make this commitment because of responsible savings we've made elsewhere in the public service, including reining in wasteful spending on contractors and consultants, which has blown out significantly under the Liberals.

LABOR WILL SCRAP ARBITRARY NDIA STAFF CAP – Burney/Brown

A Shorten Labor Government will remove the Liberals' arbitrary NDIA staff cap, freeing the agency up to make the best long-term decisions about how to deliver quality services to Australians with disability.

Last year the Productivity Commission recommended the staff cap be scrapped. Disability advocates have been calling for its abolition for years.

"Recommendation 11.3: The Australian Government should remove the cap on staff employed directly by the National Disability Insurance Agency." - [Productivity Commission, [NDIS Costs Study Report, October 2017, p413](#)]

The staff cap is a relic of Tony Abbott's horror 2014 Budget and creates a perverse incentive to rely on contract staff and outsourcing, despite the

NDIS being the biggest social reform since Medicare.

The staff cap has no impact on the NDIA's overall funding level, which will not need to change with its removal.

In recent times, the NDIA has:

- [Committed](#) over \$145 million for contract and temporary staff;
- Outsourced call centre functions to the multinational Serco – the equivalent of up to 380 full time jobs at a cost of \$63 million over two years; and
- Spent over \$61 million on consultants, in 2016-17 and 2017-18 alone.



At the same time, the scheme's rollout is currently behind schedule – the equivalent of over 46,000 people missing out on the NDIS.

People with disability have also faced massive plan review backlogs and have missed out on the essential supports they need. "It's time the Turnbull Government listened to the Productivity Commission and took the roadblocks out of the way of the NDIS," Linda Burney said.

"People with disability need to be at the heart of everything the NDIS does – it exists to provide essential services, not line the pockets of multinationals. People with disability, their families and advocates have long been raising concerns about the staff cap – including delays and poor quality planning. NDIA staff work incredibly hard – and this arbitrary staff cap is just putting more unnecessary pressure on them. "

"The staff cap creates a false economy, forcing the NDIA to rely on outsourcing and contractors, which is often more expensive," said Senator Carol Brown.

"The cap makes it harder to develop a first-class public sector workforce with the outstanding skills in delivering disability supports that will be needed into the future. The staff cap isn't the NDIA's fault – this is the Turnbull Government's policy, and it has to go".

LABOR WILL ABOLISH ARBITRARY PUBLIC SERVICE STAFFING CAP – Chalmers/O'Connor

A Shorten Labor Government will abolish the Liberals' arbitrary Average Staffing Level (ASL) cap, strengthening capacity and capability within the Australian Public Service.

The ASL cap has become counterproductive, leading to a hollowing out of the public service and sparking a blowout in spending on contractors and consultants.

By abolishing the cap, agencies will be allowed to set their staffing levels based on operational requirements. **Agencies' overall funding levels will remain capped, meaning there will be no impact on the Budget.**

Malcolm Turnbull's own department has described the ASL cap as "[a blunt instrument](#)" and [said](#): "***Through removing ASL caps, agencies may have greater flexibility to recruit specialist staff at a reduced cost.***"

By imposing an arbitrary cap, the Liberals are forcing Government agencies to spend more taxpayer dollars on less.

Australians with a disability will particularly welcome this announcement – the ASL cap has led to long service delays in the National Disability Insurance Scheme, with people in some areas waiting months for access.

Our plan will help ensure expertise, experience and corporate memory is retained in the public service by encouraging agencies to employ permanent bureaucrats over contractors and consultants.

Australians expect and deserve quality services and value for money and our plan will help deliver both.

Labor to make sure Canberra can serve Queensland

The CPSU says Federal Labor's plans for the Australian Public Service will ensure that Queensland gets its fair share in terms of public service jobs, quality services and policy development.

Labor's Shadow Minister for Finance, Queenslanders Jim Chalmers, has announced a raft of policies around the public service to restore declining service standards hurting ordinary Queenslanders, and to provide much needed job opportunities for local communities.

The announcement includes 1,200 new permanent staff nationally in the Department of Human Services, with Queensland services to receive a major boost including from 50 new specialists to deal with stressed Australian farmers seeking drought assistance.

Other key elements are that if elected a Labor Government will:

Scrap the Turnbull Government cap on public service staffing which is stopping Commonwealth agencies like Tax, Defence, CSIRO and others employing more staff

Reduce spending on costly contractors and consultants, with the savings to be re-invested into building direct APS capacity and jobs, with regions likely to benefit

Ditch the 0.5 per cent additional efficiency dividend cut on agencies

Cut travel budgets by 10%

CPSU Queensland Assistant Secretary Amy Smith has today discussed the benefits of the announcement, including on regional jobs, in Townsville with CPSU National Secretary Nadine Flood and Member for Herbert Cathy O'Toole.



Ms. Smith said: "Queenslanders living around the state in places like my hometown of Townsville can often feel like they've been forgotten in Canberra. Essential services like Medicare and Centrelink have been run into the ground and local Commonwealth jobs have been slashed by the Turnbull Government, making it harder for ordinary Queenslanders to get the help they need."

"These announcements from Federal Labor today tackle some of the obvious ways that the Commonwealth is letting Queenslanders down, like Centrelink and Medicare staffing levels, but also some of the not-so-obvious ways the current Government is pouring money into the pockets of multinational corporations while taking money, jobs and services away from workers and the Queensland community."

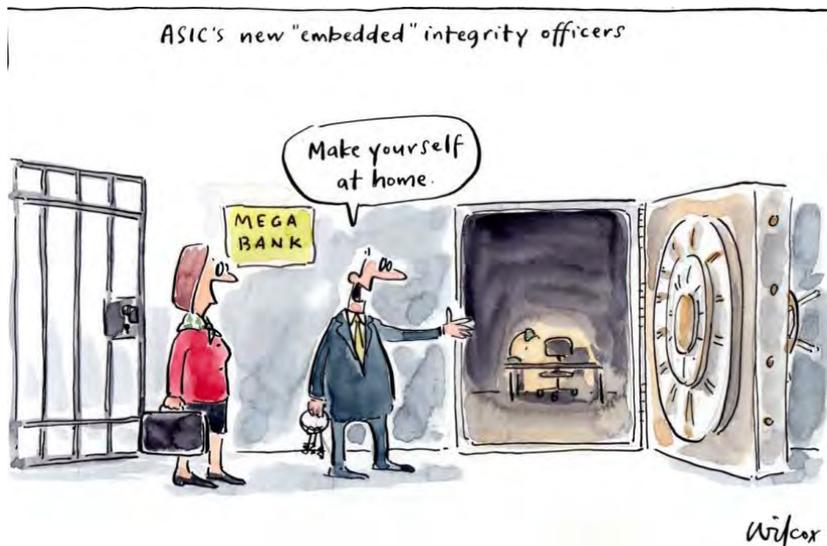
"An extra 1,200 new jobs in the Department of Human Services, which covers Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support, means putting quality permanent jobs in North Queensland and around the state and obviously also better local services as a result. It's what Queensland needs, not the LNP's rush to privately run call-centres paying workers peanuts while earning big bucks for multinational corporations."

"Labor has also committed to ditching the LNP's arbitrary cap on staffing numbers in Commonwealth agencies, which blocks them from providing decent permanent jobs that are needed to service Queensland's growing population and economy. It's a policy that's used to take money out of Queensland communities and put it into the pockets of big business, so Labor also has a plan to clamp down on private sector outsourcing and instead reinvest that money in direct public sector jobs around Queensland and beyond."

"The LNP's ideological approach to the Commonwealth public sector has meant more jobs in Canberra, more money in the pockets of profit-hungry corporations and a dud deal for Queensland in terms of job opportunities and services. We believe Labor is moving in the right direction to give Queensland a fair go."

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

AUSTRALIAN CONSUMERS DESERVE BETTER – O'Neill



This week's announcement regarding ASIC funding is furious backpedalling from a Government which has spent years running a protection racket for the big banks.

The Liberals tried to dismantle the Future of Financial Advice Reforms and protections for consumers. Malcolm Turnbull and the Liberals spent 600 days running a protection racket for the banks against a Royal Commission, with Treasurer Scott Morrison describing Labor's call for the inquiry as a "populist whinge". Only a few months ago, Malcolm Turnbull cut ASIC's funding and its staff numbers in the 2018 Budget. The Liberals cut funding by \$120 million from ASIC in the disastrous 2014 Budget.

Now, Malcolm Turnbull and the Liberals are fighting to give the big banks a \$17 billion tax handout. Labor of course welcomes today's announcement of additional funding for ASIC, and we hope that it improves ASIC's enforcement capabilities.

For years, Kelly O'Dwyer has been claiming that the Government has provided ASIC with the resources and powers they need to be "tough cops on the beat". But the horror stories flowing out of the Banking Royal Commission show a very different story. For many Australians who have been ripped off and had their lives destroyed by the big banks, this announcement is too little, too late.

This announcement does nothing to distract from the fact that Turnbull and his Liberals are, and will always be, on the side of the big banks. Labor will continue to stand up for customers and small businesses. We will remain steadfastly committed to cracking down on misconduct in the financial services sector.

GOVERNMENT THROWS VULNERABLE FAMILIES TO THE LOAN SHARKS – Madeleine King

Next week when Parliament returns it will have been three years and five days since the Turnbull Government heralded a review into payday lending but 1101 days later vulnerable consumers are still being thrown to the loan sharks.

Yet again the Turnbull Government is refusing to introduce its own payday lending legislation to Parliament which would protect consumers from soaring interest rates and skyrocketing fees, instead leaving cash-strapped families at the mercy of unscrupulous lenders.

Scott Morrison has protected these dodgy payday lenders and rent-to-buy scheme operators from answering to the Financial Services Royal Commission and continues to protect them from by refusing to introduce the legislation.

In the meantime, households are forced into payday loans and face skyrocketing fees and interest rates as high as around 200 per cent.

Labor calls on the Government to introduce this important piece of legislation so that 1.8 million financially distressed Australian households, who may be forced into a payday loan, are not ripped off.

WORKERS

WORKCHOICES IS "UNFINISHED BUSINESS" UNDER MALCOLM TURNBULL – O'Connor

In a speech this week, former Prime Minister John Howard reminded Turnbull and his Liberals that changes to industrial relations – that is WorkChoices – is "unfinished business".

Mr Howard's speech is a reminder that the Liberals true mission is to create a low paid, easy-to-hire, easy-to-fire society.

While many see John Howard's draconian WorkChoices laws as the worst attack on workers' rights, it is this Turnbull government that takes the cake.

Turnbull and his Liberals are the most virulent anti-worker, anti-union government this country has ever seen.

Turnbull and his Liberals don't only want to strip workers of their rights, they want to destroy the institutions responsible for upholding workers' rights – unions.

So far this Government has introduced the unfair, undemocratic and unjustified ABCC, the disgraced Registered Organisations Commission, it has politicised a number of agencies and has stacked the Fair Work Commission.

The Turnbull Government also supports cutting penalty rates at a time when wages growth has hit record lows.

It is a government currently led by a man who thinks wages should be as low as possible. When he spoke in the Parliament in support of WorkChoices, Malcolm Turnbull said: "You have to let the free market do its work and let the cost of setting the clearing price – be it for labour, shares, home units or loaves of bread – be as low as possible."

Of particular concern is that there is absolutely no attempt by this government to try and attend to some of the inequality we are seeing in the labour market. Much less than a solution, there isn't even a conversation about these issues. They cannot even be trusted to receive a mandate from the voters when it comes to the changes they want.

We just have to remember the deceitful tactics used by John Howard. His WorkChoices legislation was not mentioned once by the Liberals before the 2004 election.

It's only a matter of time before the next anti-worker piece of legislation is pursued by this unfair, out of touch government.

TURNBULL ALL TALK & NO ACTION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE - O'Connor/Burney

The Turnbull government's lack of commitment to domestic and family violence leave has been exposed by their complete failure to actually do anything to advance its availability to Australian workers.

Labor has committed to introducing 10 days **paid** domestic violence leave into the National Employment Standards. We have called on the Liberals to join us to provide this crucial workplace right to all Australian workers. They have consistently failed to answer our call.

Media outlets are reporting claims by the junior Minister Craig Laundry that the government will introduce legislation to provide for five days **unpaid** domestic and family violence leave "as soon as possible".

These claims are a farce.

More than four months ago Laundry put out a late night press release saying the government would look at legislating 5 days unpaid domestic and family violence leave.

There have been six Parliamentary sitting weeks since then – 20 sitting days in which the legislation could have been introduced if the junior Minister really wanted to do it "as soon as possible".

Unfortunately, it is abundantly clear that domestic and family violence leave is not a priority for this government. They have had to be dragged to supporting unpaid domestic and family violence leave, and fall well short of the necessary commitment to 10 days paid leave.

This is because the truth is that the Liberals see domestic violence leave as nothing more than a cost to business. They have even argued, unbelievably, that it will make women less attractive to employers.

Demonstrating how out of touch they are, in 2016 the Turnbull government prevented approximately 30 public service departments (including the Prime Minister's), from providing for paid family violence leave in their enterprise agreements.

State governments and many private sector employers already provide paid family violence leave, including Carlton & United Breweries, Telstra, NAB, Virgin Australia, IKEA and Qantas. These employers have paved the way and helped reduce the stigma that often accompanies domestic violence. So too have Australia's unions, campaigning for paid domestic and family violence leave over many years, which has led to subsequent coverage in Australian workplaces.



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

Labor calls on Malcolm Turnbull and his Liberals to adopt Labor's commitment to 10 days paid domestic and family violence leave, and to bring legislation forward next week to introduce 10 days paid leave into the NES. Nothing less will do.

If you cover this story, or any story regarding violence against women and children, please include the following tagline:

***** If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual assault or family violence, call [1800RESPECT](tel:1800RESPECT) on [1800 737 732](tel:1800737732) or visit www.1800RESPECT.org.au. In an emergency, call 000 *****

REPORT: HOUSING FOR THOSE FLEEING FAMILY VIOLENCE A MUST – Cameron/Burney

The [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report](#) into homelessness released yesterday has found that almost a quarter rough sleepers (or 23%) it surveyed experienced domestic or family violence.

Women who sleep rough are five times as likely as men to report experiencing domestic or family violence.

The AIHW report classifies domestic or family violence as one of the 'vulnerabilities' contributing to homelessness.

The transitional period to safe accommodation can be a particularly vulnerable time for those fleeing domestic or family violence.

[Previous AIHW research found](#) that domestic and family violence is the number one reason Australian women come to homelessness services for help.

Of the 114,757 people that sought assistance in 2016-17 from specialist providers, [40 per cent](#) reported that they were experiencing domestic and family violence, an increase of 38 per cent from 2015-16. More than [three-quarters \(77 per cent\)](#) of those seeking housing assistance due to family and domestic violence were women.

[Two-thirds of the unmet requests](#) for housing assistance are made by women – predominantly when seeking crisis and short-term accommodation as a result of domestic violence.

The Turnbull Government previously cut \$44 million from capital funding for safe housing options for women and children fleeing domestic violence.

A Shorten Labor Government will provide \$88 million over two years for a new Safe Housing Fund to increase transitional housing options for women and children escaping domestic and family violence, young people exiting out-of-home care, and older women on low incomes who are at risk of homelessness.

If Malcolm Turnbull put half the effort into housing and homelessness that he does trying implement tax cuts for his mates at the big end of town, Australia would be a much fairer and more egalitarian place to live.

DODGY PRIVATE TRAINING PROVIDERS FLOURISH UNDER TURNBULL- Cameron

News today that the Commonwealth Ombudsman has received 5,193 complaints about dodgy private training providers in just nine months should be a wake-up call for the Turnbull Government.

Alarming, the Ombudsman expects this number to increase as students lodge their tax returns only to find they have been charged for courses they have not done.



The Ombudsman's report states: "...many complainants first discover they have a student loan or discover that the loan amount is larger than they expected, when they submit their tax return."

Described today as "one of the biggest rorts in Australian education history" by the Sydney Morning Herald, it is feared many students remain unaware they have been charged and have therefore not reported it.

Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Apprenticeships, Senator Doug Cameron, said dodgy training providers have flourished under the Turnbull Government.

Senator Cameron said today's report further highlights the need for a robust inquiry into vocational education in Australia which Labor has committed to doing.

"The Abbott/Turnbull Government has stripped \$3 billion from vocational education since being elected," Senator Cameron said.

"The vocational education system has been damaged by privatisation, poor regulation and unhealthy competition.

"Assistant Minister for VET, Karen Andrews, keeps assuring the public she is on top of the situation but today's report shows nothing is further from the truth."

Senator Cameron said Labor will ensure at least two thirds of all government funding for vocational education will go to TAFE.

The balance will go to not-for-profit community and adult educators, and only high quality private providers with demonstrated links to industry

EDUCATION

PRESCHOOL ON THE TURNBULL GOVERNMENT'S CHOPPING BLOCK - Rishworth

On the first day of Early Learning Matters Week, it has finally been confirmed that this Government will be cutting their funding to the national preschools and kindy program.

The Liberals had signalled their intention in the May budget, which only provided funding for the program for next year.

Since being elected, the Government has made an art form of rolling over the program for a year at a time and has refused to provide a long term funding commitment and certainty to the program. And now the Minister has [confirmed](#) what we all feared – the Government **has no plans** to renew the program.

The Government's statements refers to 'ironing out' policy settings with the states and territories and points to misleading data in advance of the ending of the program in June 2020.

It is clear they intend to walk away from the 350,000 pre-schoolers who rely on this program and cut \$440 million from the sector – a year after the next election is due.

Of all the cuts the Liberals have made in the last five years, this is surely one of the worst, and most cynical.

There is a mountain of research, data and literature which shows the positive educational, social, health and emotional benefits of a quality, universal preschool program.

Preschools are one of the public policy success stories of the last decade. Since the first agreement was signed by Labor in 2008, preschool enrolment has increased from 77 per cent to almost 93 per cent.

There is no doubt that access to four year old preschool gives our children the best head start for school and for life. But this Government is an evidence free zone. They would rather take the funding and hand it over to the big banks.

The Liberals have an appalling record in early education:

- They cut \$20 million from the National Quality Agenda program in the May budget;
- They have introduced a new child care subsidy system which leaves 1 in 4 families worse off; and
- They now want to cut \$440 million from the national preschools program.

This Minister has cut so much from Australia's preschools, schools, universities and vocational education, you have to ask, what exactly is he Minister for Education of?

This is a shameful cut from an out of touch Government with the wrong priorities.

MALCOLM TURNBULL'S NAPLAN BUNGLE - Plibersek

Just weeks after Malcolm Turnbull's education minister called NAPLAN online a "roaring success" it's been revealed there are major problems with this year's test results.

Mr Turnbull must come clean today about exactly what's going on here.

Education department officials are having a crisis meeting in Canberra.

What will they be discussing? Parents and teachers deserve answers. Will NAPLAN results will be released this year, and if so when?

A Sydney principal told the ABC:

"Parents are asking when the results are coming... The results are supposed to identify the areas of need now. We did the test in May...programs that we could be implementing now to address some of the issues in the students' learning are sitting on shelves."

This is yet another massive bungle from Malcolm Turnbull.

In 2018, and after five years of the Liberals, it's astounding that we still have kids sitting paper and pen tests. NAPLAN online, if delivered well, could give students, parents, and teachers more accurate and timely information.

Australians know Mr Turnbull can't be trusted with our schools because he's cutting them by \$17 billion. But this is a new level of Turnbull Government incompetence - they can't even deliver a test for school kids properly.

Whether it's his eHealth record mess, his Centrelink robo-debt disaster, his census fail, or his slow, expensive NBN - there isn't a project or service Malcolm Turnbull can't stuff up.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

TURNBULL WON'T FIX HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS CRISIS - Cameron

Labor Senator Doug Cameron will told this week's [National Homelessness Conference](#) at the MCG that homelessness and housing affordability has reached crisis point across the nation.

Senator Cameron said in five years of the Abbott/Turnbull Government, they have not shown the leadership or will to address the crisis which is seeing young people and older women fall into homelessness at alarming rates.

Four reports released in the past week by ACOSS, Mission Australia, the University of Melbourne and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare all reached the same conclusion.

Namely, that inequality of wealth and income is widening in Australia and this is radically reshaping our once egalitarian society.

"These reports all show that falling rates of home-ownership, increased rental stress, worsening housing affordability and flat-lining income growth are combining to put immense pressure on the housing choices available to vulnerable Australians," he said.

"This crisis requires national leadership, long-term planning and a holistic approach, all of which are beyond the capabilities and priorities of the Turnbull Government."

Senator Cameron said conservative rhetorical responses such as "equality of opportunity" and "the best form of welfare is a job" completely ignore the reality for disadvantaged Australians.

"We need policies that are strongly informed by an equity and fairness agenda," Senator Cameron said.

"What we don't need is more failed neo-liberal nonsense that insults our intelligence and economic logic by suggesting massive tax cuts for the

big banks and multinationals will fix the issue.”

Senator Cameron also warned about increased *exclusionary zoning* that is used to protect house values, schools and communities in affluent areas. He said zoning becomes exclusionary when planning laws exist to solely to separate households based on their economic resources.

A Shorten Labor government has already committed to:

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

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

FIRST PEOPLE

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLE – Dodson/Burney/Snowdon/McCarthy

On International Day of World Indigenous Peoples(August 9), Labor stands with First Nations people in recognising their unique status as the First People of this nation.

It is time this was recognised within our political structures, and within our Constitution.



Labor is determined to give First Nations people a say in the matters that affect them – including through a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament.

Labor is committed to writing the wrongs of the past and will push forward a Makarrata commission to oversee truth-telling and agreement-making.

The days of procrastination and delay in the true recognition of First Nations people and according them their inherent rights should be behind us.

We have seen examples from other countries, where First Nations people have been recognised within the political apparatus and give advice to their Parliament, to ensure better outcomes are delivered for First Nations peoples.

It is time Australia took this step.

This International Day of World Indigenous People – Labor honours the voice of the people who have called for a Voice to Parliament and a Makarrata commission to oversee truth-telling and agreement-making.

In the wake of this year’s Garma festival, the Prime Minister has reiterated his opposition to a constitutionally enshrined Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

More than a year after the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Final Report of the Referendum Council, the overwhelming evidence of Joint Select Committee is that First Nation’s people want a Voice, and a more meaningful say in the issues that impact their lives, including at the regional and local level.

These calls are in accordance with the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People - which Australia has agreed to but is yet to enact.

It is time for the Turnbull Government to recognise that many Australians want to see fairness and justice for First Nations people and respect their calls for a Voice to Parliament and a national process of truth-telling and agreement making. Labor will continue to work through the Joint Select Committee to build consensus on this issue.

Labor is committed to the challenge, the journey, the dialogue and the negotiation that is required for us to achieve these objectives which are essential if we are to unite behind a reconciled Australia.

CITIZENSHIP

ALL AUSTRALIANS WILL HAVE A SAY ON LABOR'S PLAN FOR A REPUBLIC - Thistlethwaite



Tony Abbott's is wrong.

All Australian's will have a say on Labor's plan for an Australian Head of State. Abbott is using all the tricks of the trade from 1999.

Tony Abbott has suggested that Labor's planned vote asking the question "**do you support an Australian republic with an Australian head of state**", is a trick question.

Abbott also bizarrely suggests that the Governor General is in fact Australia's head of state.

The former head of the Australian Monarchists described the question to the Australian people as a "cop-out" and "could gull a majority of people into voting yes on patriotic grounds".

Labor's [plan](#) for a republic is clear. If we are elected at the next election Labor will hold a national vote on a threshold question of whether or not Australians

want an Australian as our head of state. If that question is successful all Australians will be given the opportunity to have their say on a model for the appointment of a head of state before a referendum question is determined.

The time is right for Australians to begin discussing the importance of having one of our own as our Head of State and the process to work and consult with the Australian public to deliver a successful amendment to our constitution through a referendum.

Labor's plan will mean a two stage process where everyone person will get a say on a clear choice of model.

Tony Abbott is seeking to mislead Australians about Labor's plan to try and stop a sensible debate about Australian becoming a republic. It's the standard tactic of Monarchists to try and confuse Australians. It's deceitful and desperate and Australians should reject their tactics and engage and have their say about this important issue

VETERANS

CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF AMIENS

This week we commemorated the Centenary of the Battle of Amiens.



Imperial Troops at Bellicourt, Battle of Amiens, August 1918

The Battle of Amiens was the largest attack by Allied forces during the First World War which saw the offensive successfully push over enemy lines.

The Battle of Amiens would see all five of the Australian infantry divisions come together for the first time.

During the early hours of August 8, 1918, there was a defining silence and a heavy mist before tanks and infantry pushed forward.

Two hours after the offensive begun, Australia troops successfully accomplished all of their objectives. After three hours, Allied forces had successfully run over the enemy.

The Battle of Amiens was a great success, with Allied forces capturing 29,144 prisoners, 338 guns and liberating 116 towns.

But the advance was achieved at a high cost, with nearly 2,000 Australian casualties among the Allied total of 21,243.

Most notably, many reflect on the Battle of Amiens as the start of the 100 Day offensives that won the war.

As we reflect on the Centenary of the Battle of Amiens, we are reminded of Australia's First World War Campaign and the brutal toll it took on our young nation, with more than 60,000 casualties and 165,000 men wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. Our story on the Western Front still holds significance in Australia today.

VOLUNTEER GRANTS

Volunteer Grants are now open for local service organisations and community groups.

This announcement is a great opportunity to get in contact with your local community organisations to encourage them to apply.

Groups that can apply for the grants are any community-based volunteer groups that work in their local communities.

These can include progress associations, scouting groups, sports clubs, community clubs, wildlife carers, bands and musical clubs – and much more.

Grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000 are available to help not-for-profit community organisations or groups support their volunteers through practical measures such as the purchase of small equipment items, reimbursement for volunteers' fuel and transport costs, and contributions towards the cost of training and background screening checks.

Linked [here](#) is a draft letter for you to send to local groups to encourage them to apply.

The important thing is to make contact fast as applications close on the 18th of September 2018.

The Volunteer Grants 2018 Application Pack is available at:

<https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/volunteer-grants-2018>

Alternatively, you can contact the Volunteer Grants 2018 Hotline on 1800 020 283 or email

support@communitygrants.gov.au



MESSAGE FROM SALLY McMANUS- ACTU Secretary

Wherever I go in Australia I hear the same story – people are ready for change and willing to take action to make it happen.

And nothing demonstrates the need for change like massive rallies around the country. When people are prepared to stand up and take action, we can change the rules.

[We need you to join us](#)

So in April and May let's escalate the Change the Rules campaign and [hit the streets](#). People around the country are ready to take action to change the rules and win more secure jobs and fair pay rises.

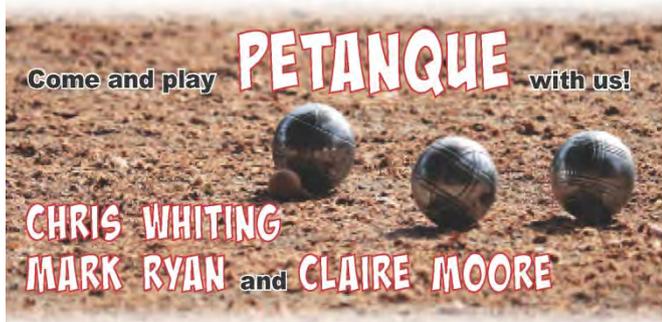
Big business has too much power, but when working people join together we are mighty and unbreakable.

[Join an action](#)

Anyone who wants to live in a better, fairer country, who wants more secure jobs and fairer pay rises, should attend [these events](#) and join the movement for change.

In unity, Sally McManus, ACTU Secretary

<http://www.australianunions.org.au/> Authorised by S. McManus, ACTU Secretary. Australian Unions · L4 365 Queen St, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia



Deception Bay Petanque Ground,
 Bayview Tce & Endeavour St, Deception Bay.
 Starting 2.00pm, Sunday 12 August.

\$25 per head, \$15 unwaged. Includes BBQ!
 RSVP: bancroft.campaign@gmail.com
 or call 0419-796-317 by Thursday 9 August.

Direct Deposit: BSB 064-000, A/c no: 14853912
 Please include initial & last name.

What's this?

This is a relaxed and enjoyable fundraiser for Chris Whiting. The idea is for you to get a few people together, and come and play in a friendly competition. Petanque is very sociable - you are encouraged to eat, drink and have a chat! We will supply the balls (boules) and have members of the champion Deception Bay Petanque Club to guide and teach you.

What's petanque?

Petanque is the French version of bowls, hence the emphasis on eating drinking and sociability. You don't have to be fit to compete, and it suits people of all ages and abilities. It's played on a gravel surface. The rules are very similar to our version of bowls, but you pitch the boule instead of rolling it. Find out more at www.petanque.org



**Our Rainbow House
 Car Raffle 2018**

Win a 2018 Hyundai Tucson SUV



\$20 per ticket



Closing Date—Monday 5th November, 2018

Draw Date—Tuesday 6th November, 2018

Prize Winner will be contacted by Phone and Mail

Visit www.ourrainbowhouse.org.au/car-raffle-2018/ for Terms and Conditions

“The Light On The Hill”

“I try to think of the Labor movement, not as putting an extra sixpence into somebody's pocket, or making somebody Prime Minister or Premier, but as a movement bringing something better to the people, better standards of living, greater happiness to the mass of the people. We have a great objective – *the light on the hill* – which we aim to reach by working for the betterment of mankind not only here but anywhere we may give a helping hand. If it were not for that, the Labor movement would not be worth fighting for.” – Prime Minister Ben Chifley, 1949

The ALP Ninderry Branch invites you to its inaugural

“Light On The Hill” Dinner

Friday, 17th August, 2018

At the Coolum Beach Hotel

David Low Way, Coolum Beach

With Special Guest Speakers

Hon Di Farmer
 Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence



Senator Anthony Chisholm
 Former ALP State Secretary



Julie-Ann Campbell
 ALP Qld State Secretary



\$55 per person
 Time - 6.30 pm for 7 pm start
 Hors D'Oeuvres on arrival
 Followed by a two course dinner
 Table drinks service
 Lucky door prize and raffles

RSVP by 10 August to Lex at
lmcc0604@aol.com or 0409 499 905
 Please mention any dietary requirements when booking.
 Payment is required at time of booking by Direct Deposit. For alternate payment methods please contact Lex.
 Direct Deposit: BSB 064 000 A/C 14896592
 Account Name: ALP of QLD Ninderry Branch
 Please use your last name as reference and email receipt to Lex.
Booking essential - No tickets at the door.

Please note funds raised will be used for campaigning purposes.

CURRENT PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES – to Friday 10 August 2018

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Cashless Debit Card Trial Expansion\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Maintaining Income Thresholds\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and related bills](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Encouraging Self-sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants\) Bill 2018](#)

Community Affairs References Committee

- [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 practised](#)

Economics Legislation Committee

- [Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]; and Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage \(Regulatory Levies\) Amendment Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Protecting Your Superannuation Package\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Space Activities Amendment \(Launches and Returns\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)

Economics References Committee

- [Financial and tax practices of for-profit aged care providers](#)
- [The Commitment to the Senate issued by the Business Council of Australia](#)
- [Regional Inequality in Australia](#)
- [Selection process for a national radioactive waste management facility in South Australia](#)
- [Consumer protection in the banking, insurance and financial sector](#)
- [Non-conforming building products](#)

Education and Employment References Committee

- [The exploitation of general and specialist cleaners working in retail chains for contracting or subcontracting cleaning companies](#)
- [The high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers](#)
- [The prevention, investigation and prosecution of industrial deaths in Australia](#)
- [Work health and safety of workers in the offshore petroleum industry](#)

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

Environment and Communications References Committee

- [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](#)
- [Water use by the extractive industry](#)
- [Current and future impacts of climate change on housing, buildings and infrastructure](#)
- [Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities](#)

Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

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

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

- [Defence Amendment \(Call Out of the Australian Defence Force\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Proposed Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

- [Family Law Amendment \(Family Violence and Cross-examination of Parties\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Modern Slavery Bill 2018](#)
- [The Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment \(Removing Commonwealth Restrictions on Cannabis\) 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 Legislation Committee

- [The practice of dowry and the incidence of dowry abuse in Australia](#)

Red Tape Committee

- [The effect of red tape on private education](#)
- [The effect of red tape on child care](#)
- [The effect of red tape on occupational licensing](#)

Procedure Committee

- [Proposal to replace the parliamentary prayer with an invitation to prayer or reflection](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

- [Air Services Amendment Bill 2018](#)
- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

- [Regulatory approaches to ensure the safety of pet food](#)
- [The need for regulation of mobility scooters, also known as motorised wheelchairs](#)
- [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](#)

Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers

- [Senate Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers](#)



CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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