This federal election is the most important election in a generation. And for Christians like you and me, there is nothing less than our very place in Australian society riding on the outcome of July’s vote.

But even more importantly, the future of what children are taught at school and even their very right to be nurtured by their mum and dad is at stake.

Australian social policy has taken a big shift to the extreme left in the last decade. Christians cannot be so easily pigeonholed as being left or right. We are concerned about righteousness and justice. However, this seismic shift on social policy has been accompanied by a growing hostility towards Christians and those who share our views on marriage …

(continued on page 2)
There’s more at stake this election than marriage
(continued from page 1)

… and family.

Kevin Rudd’s rise and fall is a perfect example. Elected Prime Minister in 2007 after assiduously courting the Christian vote, in the 2013 election campaign he turned on the constituency in spectacular fashion.

“Labor is committed to changing the definition of marriage within 100 days if elected.”

Asked by Pastor Matt Prater on the ABC’s Q&A about his views on marriage, Rudd ridiculed Pastor Matt, the Bible, and by implication, millions of people of faith for their antiquated views. “Well, mate,” Rudd snapped, “if I was going to have that [biblical] view (of marriage), the Bible also says that slavery is a natural condition.”

Sadly Kevin Rudd is not the first or last politician to have a go at Christians. In 2012, Malcolm Turnbull launched an extraordinary attack on the then Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, Rev. Dr Peter Jensen, and his views on marriage. “This whole issue drips with hypocrisy,” Turnbull told the House of Representatives, “and the pools are deepest at the feet of the sanctimonious.”

Bill Shorten has also had a go. Speaking to ACL supporters at our national conference in 2014, he accused an unspecified group of Christians of “hiding behind the Bible to insult and demonise people based on who they love”. It is against this backdrop of growing antagonism towards Christians that the July 2 election must be considered.

Marriage has become a touchstone issue for measuring the suitability of someone’s place in Australian society. Increasingly, Christians are finding themselves on the wrong side of elite opinion.

The Coalition Government is promising to hold a plebiscite on the definition of marriage. But Labor is committed to changing the definition of marriage within 100 days if elected. Bill Shorten has explicitly said Labor would provide no protections for the religious freedom of lay people who do not agree with same-sex marriage.

A marriage plebiscite is therefore the only way that, as Christians, we can secure both the future of marriage, and our freedoms to believe and practice our faith.

We must demand more for the world’s poorest and most vulnerable

In June 2014, we all watched in horror as terrorist group ISIL stormed into the ancient city of Mosul – known better to Christians as Nineveh – and forced the city’s Christian population out.

Of course, Christians are not the only people facing persecution by extremist groups like ISIL, but the horrors broadcast on the evening news drew attention to the plight of persecuted people in a tragic and compelling way.

In 2014, more than 700 churches participated in Solidarity Sunday, an ACL initiative to pray and raise awareness about global persecution. And 20,000 ACL supporters signed a petition calling on then Prime Minister Tony Abbott to increase Australia’s humanitarian migrant intake and...
How our schools became so unsafe

Election campaigns are busy times. Lots of announcements are made. Some receive more attention than others.

During the 2013 election campaign, the then Labor Education and Finance Ministers made a joint announcement promising $8 million of taxpayers’ money to stop ‘homophobic bullying’ in schools. The then Education Minister Bill Shorten introduced the now infamous, so-called “Safe Schools” program – and as Opposition Leader, he is refusing to back away from it.

“Safe Schools” has come under sustained scrutiny from parents, the media, and politicians for its dangerous queer gender ideology that teaches students and school teachers that you should not to refer to “boys and girls”, while also promoting a view that gender is fluid. The program directs students to websites that give directions on how girls can bind their chests (a potentially lethal exercise) and how boys can tuck their genitals.

Despite a review, followed by a response from the Education Minister, the program still contains material that teaches that gender is a construct. Furthermore, the Andrews Government in Victoria has point blank refused to abide by the recommendations of the Louden review to prune “Safe Schools”.

At this point, both major parties are in favour of “Safe Schools”. The Coalition have promised not to renew funding for the so-called “Safe Schools” programme while Bill Shorten’s Labor have committed to continue funding it. And bullying words such as “bigot” and “homophobe” are being employed against anyone asking questions of the program.

Australian voters must be aware of the negative implications of allowing this program to continue, and stand up as a voice for values in the fight to remove “Safe Schools”.

We are told that everything is being done to expedite the process, yet this is cold comfort to those who have been made homeless by ISIL. Sadly, the world’s poorest have had an even more disappointing response from Australia in recent years.

After initially committing to reaching our Millennium Development Goal of allocating 0.7% of Australia’s gross national income to overseas direct aid by 2015, successive governments have pushed the deadline to meet this goal further and further back by cutting aid.

In fact, as of the most recent budget announcement, Australia’s overseas-aid budget is now the lowest since 2004 and we have become one of the least generous nations in the developed world.

With so many people – including hundreds of thousands of Christians – displaced and persecuted around the world, Australia must stand up and support those whose governments are unable or unwilling to help. The current situation is not good enough and, as the federal election approaches, Christians must demand more from both major political parties.
Anti-discrimination laws hinder free speech

In September 2015, ACL was made aware that a complaint against Hobart’s Catholic Archbishop had been registered with the government.

Julian Porteous was made the subject of an official complaint to the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Commission after he promoted Catholic teaching on marriage to the parents who enrolled their children in Tasmania’s Catholic schools. Thankfully the complaint was dropped in May 2016. However, the complainant, Greens’ transgender political candidate Martine Delany, has conceded nothing. It seems this is a tactical retreat.

It is a travesty that Tasmania’s Anti-Discrimination Commissioner believed the Archbishop had a case to answer, simply for distributing the Catholic Church marriage booklet “Don’t Mess with Marriage”.

Wildly excessive anti-discrimination laws are hindering the ability of those who believe the definition of marriage should not be changed from standing up and expressing reasonable and respectful opinions. Some lay people who wish to share their views will feel silenced by fear of facing the same retribution as Archbishop Porteous.

As ACL’s Lyle Shelton has said, “misguided laws and legal processes are silencing the community. When the law stops decent people from saying reasonable things, it is defective.”

We are calling for legislative changes to allow free and fair debate to be conducted during the lead-up to the election and potential plebiscite on changing the definition of marriage.

When the law stops decent people from saying reasonable things, it is defective.

Volunteer for our biggest election campaign ever

With so much at stake this election, we are mobilising more people and resources than ever before.

Thousands of people just like you are fanning out across the country to campaign in key seats ahead of July 2. Already, hundreds of thousands of homes have been letterboxed and conversations started about issues like marriage, safe schools, religious freedom, and so much more.

Will you stand up as a voice for values? Visit acl.org.au/volunteer and join the campaign today!
The Australian Labor Party’s 2015 National Conference made headlines over the party’s decision to force all of its MPs to support same-sex marriage from 2019. However, a series of little-known amendments to the party’s national platform went unreported by the mainstream media. Sadly Labor’s capitulation to radical rainbow ideology is complete.

**LABOR’S RAINBOW NATIONAL PLATFORM**

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**National Conference decisions**

55. That decisions of National Conference whether determined as platform or as a decision of Conference are adopted by the ALP at the next subsequent Conference. Decisions of a constitutional or other nature containing otherwise determinates.

**Same-sex marriage**

56. That the National President shall preside over Conference. In the President’s absence the National Conference decisions shall be made by the National Conference. Pending the outcome of any such appeal, the decision of the National Executive shall stand.

**PART F - NATIONAL CONFERENCE STANDING ORDERS**

Chair of Conference

57. The National President shall preside over Conference. In the President’s absence the National Conference decisions shall be made by the National Conference. Pending the outcome of any such appeal, the decision of the National Executive shall stand.

**Candidates for public office who act outside these guidelines will be liable to sanctions by the relevant Labor Party Caucus or state Administrative Committee.**

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**ALP FORCED VOTE FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**

Forcing every Labor member and senator (under threat of expulsion) to vote for same-sex marriage by 2019.

**ALP policy states that “cost should not be a barrier to accessing sex-change operations, meaning you and I may have to foot the bill.”**

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**LABOR CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE SO-CALLED “SAFE SCHOOLS” PROGRAM THAT TEACHES CHILDREN THEIR GENDER IS FLUID**

ALP policy for gender-focused anti-bullying programs will ensure students are able to use the uniform of their preferred sex and be referred to using their preferred name.

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**ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW REVIEW**

102. ALP Eckles and McConnell bills to enact an appropriate balance between the right to free speech and the right to safety for vulnerable groups. Labor stands with the community to oppose any step away from the Royal Commission’s recommendations.

103. Labor opposes, implements, and enforces legislation to address the need to define hate speech. Labor will consult and work with stakeholders to ensure that such definitions are appropriately safeguarded.

104. Labor will ensure national debate about the future of LGBTI rights, but will not focus on a single issue. Given the national, important progress that has already been made.

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**RAINBOW LOBBY PRIVILEGED IN GOVERNMENT POLICY MAKING**

Labor will establish a taxpayer-funded LGBTI Anti-Discrimination Commissioner within the Human Rights Commission. Because there is no discrimination against same-sex attracted people and couples, this powerful government commissioner will have nothing to do except pursue incoherent policies against Australians who oppose same-sex marriage and “Safe Schools”.

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**GOVERNMENT-FUNDED RAINBOW COP TO ENFORCE RAINBOW IDEOLOGY FROM PRE-SCHOOL TO BOARD ROOM**

A new Commissioner for LGBTI Human Rights.

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**MAKE PUBLIC TOILETS UNSAFE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS?**

ALP policy will re-implement new pretenses to remove or change gender markers or “increase identification options.”

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**POLITICAL CORRECTNESS TO BE FURTHER ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENRICHED!**

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**THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY’S 2015 NATIONAL CONFERENCE MADE HEADLINES OVER THE PARTY’S DECISION TO FORCE ALL OF ITS MPs TO SUPPORT SAME-SEX MARRIAGE FROM 2019. HOWEVER, A SERIES OF LITTLE-KNOWN AMENDMENTS TO THE PARTY’S NATIONAL PLATFORM WENT UNREPORTED BY THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA. SADLY LABOR’S CAPITULATION TO RADICAL RAINBOW IDEOLOGY IS COMPLETE.**
Dear Friend of ACL,

It’s more important than ever that we raise a strong and loud voice for values this election.

ACL never tells people who to vote for.

But we always seek to inform people on where the parties stand on key issues. This election newsletter provides policy information on a range of issues. In particular it advises where the parties stand on marriage and “Safe Schools”.

More than any other election issues, these two will radically re-shape Australia, starting with re-shaping our children’s understanding of sex and gender.

With so much at stake including the future of marriage, religious freedom, and justice for the world’s poorest and most vulnerable, we cannot afford to take a backward step.

I cannot tell you just how thankful I am to the thousands of ACL supporters like you who have already joined the fight and are working as campaign volunteers right across our nation. It’s so inspiring to see such courage and hard work as together we work to defend our freedoms and speak out for the good of our nation.

You and I know that this is just the rehearsal. If the Coalition is elected, the next big challenge will be the campaign to preserve marriage through the promised plebiscite after the election.

Your support now will help us secure a people’s vote on marriage, and ensure we are well placed to enter that campaign with our best foot forward.

So thank you for your continued support. And please be praying for our nation and our political leaders throughout this important campaign!

God bless,

Lyle Shelton
Managing Director

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ELECTION UPDATES

Keep up to date at acl.org.au for our election coverage! And while you’re there, please complete the online policy questionnaire.

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Senate Changes

Changes have been made to Senate voting rules.

Many Christians use their Senate vote to vote for Christian and family values parties.

To make sure your vote counts this election, go to www.aec.gov.au for more information.

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