



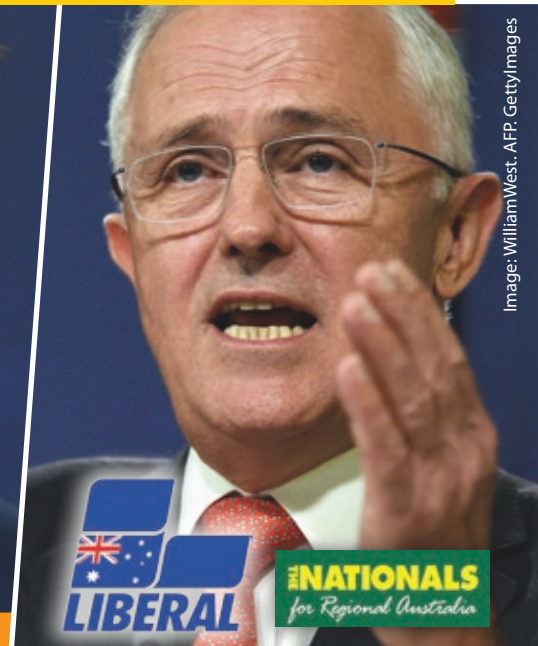
# Voice for Values

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2016

## July 2: The most important election in a generation



- No people's vote on marriage
- Same-sex marriage legislated by October
- Will fund so-called "Safe Schools"



- Will hold people's vote (plebiscite) on marriage
- Won't renew funding for so-called "Safe Schools"

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)*

## Inside >>

We must demand more for the world's poorest and most vulnerable **P2-3**

How our schools became so unsafe **P3**

Anti-discrimination laws hinder free speech **P4**

Volunteer for our biggest election campaign ever **P4**

Labor's rainbow national platform **P5**

From Lyle to you **P6**



**Discover the truth about Labor's rainbow policy positions**

**Turn to page 5** to read about the ALP's plans to give the gay lobby privileged status in government decision-making.

# 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 ...**

respond to the growing crisis. Having 'stopped the boats', the government could now afford a generous and targeted humanitarian program.

To his great credit, Mr Abbott allocated an additional 12,000 places for people displaced by the Middle East conflict. However, almost a year later, less than 30 of these 12,000 refugees have arrived on our shores.

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

**Percentage of Australia's national income spent on foreign aid**



SOURCE: OECD, Commonwealth budget papers

– 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.

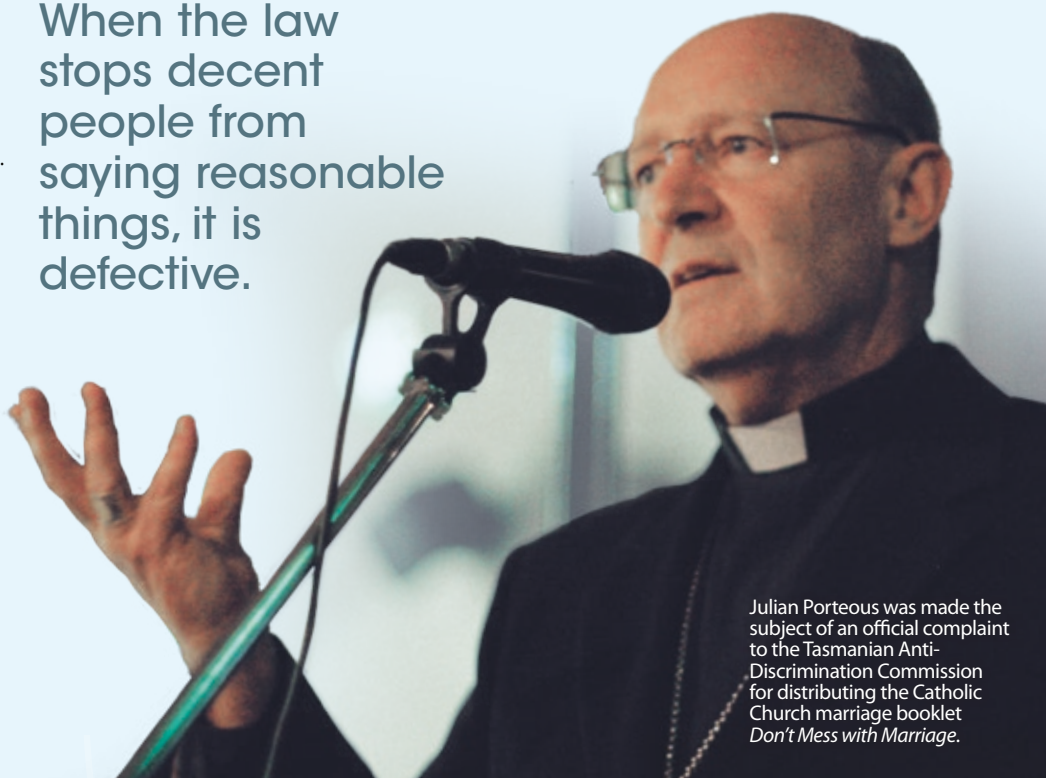
It is a travesty that Tasmania's Anti-Discrimination Commissioner believed the Archbishop had a case to answer, simply for distributing the Catholic Church marriage booklet "Don't Mess with Marriage".

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."

**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.



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## 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](http://acl.org.au/volunteer) and join the campaign today!







# LABOR'S RAINBOW NATIONAL PLATFORM

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 Senate Leader Penny Wong, Opposition Leader Bill Shorten and Deputy Leader Tanya Plibersek at Labor's 2015 National Conference.  
AAP Image/Tracey Nearnby

## TAXPAYER-FUNDED SEX-CHANGE OPERATIONS

Labor acknowledges the right of all Australians, including transgender and gender diverse people, to live their gender identity. For many, this includes accessing specialist health services and for some people can involve gender affirmation surgery. Cost should not be a barrier to accessing these services and/or surgery, and Labor commits to removing, wherever possible, out-of-pocket health expenses for transgender people incurred in relation to their gender identity.

Men's health

! 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.

(Source: ALP National Platform page 109, paragraph 73)

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

A New Champion for LGBTI Human Rights

Labor will appoint a permanent, dedicated full-time LGBTI Discrimination Commissioner, to ensure that the rights of LGBTI Australians have a new champion, and lesbian, gay, transgender and intersex Australians can feel safer, more secure and more included in Australian society.

Whilst Labor understands that this will not put an end to the discrimination experienced by many LGBTI Australians, having a dedicated discrimination commissioner is an important next step in the fight for a more equal Australia.

Labor will keep fighting for marriage equality

Unfortunately, there are still areas where the Federal Government directly discriminates against LGBTI people.

! Labor will establish a taxpayer-funded LGBTI Anti-Discrimination Commissioner within the Human Rights Commission. Because there is no discrimination in Australian law against same-sex attracted people and couples, this powerful government commissioner will have nothing to do except pursue court cases against Australians who disagree with same-sex marriage and "Safe Schools".

(Source: [http://www.100positivepolicies.org.au/lgbti\\_discrimination\\_commissioner\\_fact\\_sheet](http://www.100positivepolicies.org.au/lgbti_discrimination_commissioner_fact_sheet))

## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW REVIEW

102. Australia's anti-vilification laws strike an appropriate balance between the right to free speech and protection from the harm of hate speech. Labor stands with the community to oppose any attack on the Racial Discrimination Act.

103. Homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and intersexphobic harassment by the written or spoken word causes actual harm, not simple mere offence, to people who have suffered discrimination and prejudice, and causes particular harm to young same-sex attracted, or gender-questioning and intersex people, and considers such harmful harassment is an unacceptable abuse of the responsibilities that come with freedom of speech and must be subject to effective sanctions. Labor will consider whether current anti-discrimination law provides such effective sanctions.

104. Uniform national defamation laws should provide a proportionate and effective response to expression, public debate and the protection laws, national shield laws, nationally, are important protection

! Political correctness to be further entrenched.

(Source: ALP National Platform page 165, paragraph 103)

## LABOR CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE SO-CALLED "SAFE SCHOOLS" PROGRAM THAT TEACHES CHILDREN THEIR GENDER IS FLUID

43. Labor supports a mandatory Indigenous Studies component as part of all teachers' pre-service training. Labor will work with teacher educators and the teaching profession to ensure all teachers have a good understanding of Indigenous education issues and the knowledge to work effectively with Indigenous communities and families.

46. Labor believes our schools must be safe environments that enable all students to learn – including same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students. Labor will continue working with teachers, students and schools to tackle bullying and discrimination, and ensure our schools are safe and welcoming places for same-sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students. Labor will continue to support national programs to address homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and intersexphobia in schools. This includes ensuring gender diverse students are able to express the gender they identify with, including through preferred name and dress.

47. Every Australian in schooling. Our public fundamental respect for the principles of schooling.

48. Parents have

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

(Source: ALP National Platform page 90, paragraph 46)

## MAKE PUBLIC TOILETS UNSAFE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS?

- Continue to ensure that Medicare and the discriminatory policies for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people do not discriminate against their access to or use of Medicare or the PBS;
- Ensure the deferral of non-necessary medical intervention on infants and children with intersex variations until such times as the person concerned can give informed consent;
- Prohibit modifications to sex characteristics undertaken for social rationales, without informed consent;
- Ensure that intersex persons' right not to undergo sex assignment treatment is respected; and
- Continue to recognise that gender diverse Australians face unique stigma and mental health harms through the gendering of government documents, workplaces and facilities such as public toilets. Labor is committed to breaking down barriers to social inclusion for transgender Australians.

73. Labor acknowledges the right of all Australians, including transgender and gender diverse people, to live their gender identity. For many, this includes accessing specialist health services and for some people can involve gender affirmation surgery. Cost should not be a barrier to accessing these services and/or surgery, and Labor commits to removing, wherever possible, out-of-pocket health expenses for transgender people incurred in relation to their gender identity.

! ALP policy will reprint documents with new prefixes to remove or change gender markers or increase 'identification options'.

(Source: ALP National Platform page 161, 162 paragraph 67, 69)

## RAINBOW LOBBY PRIVILEGED IN GOVERNMENT POLICY MAKING

groups to:

- Expand intersex representation in government;
- Support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians with particular needs, such as those who are young, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and those living in rural, regional and remote Australia;
- Strengthen laws and expand programs against discrimination and harassment on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status; and
- Support and engage with communities and stakeholders to provide input into government decision-making.

67. Labor will strengthen support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Australians by integrating advice and support services and ensuring they are engaged in the policy development of government.

68. Labor condemns sexual violence, or any derogatory behaviour and harassment towards all people. Labor recognises the harm such actions cause and will take action to prevent and respond to such behaviour.

Labor NATIONAL PLATFORM

- Strengthen partnership between the federal government and LGBTI community groups in the delivery of support services for LGBTI Australians and their families;
- Investigate establishing a National Gender Centre for support and advocacy for transgender and intersex Australians, which could have an education and training role to promote awareness about transgender and intersex issues;
- Support national intersex-led organisations and advocate on intersex issues;
- Review documentation requirements, including affect transgender and intersex people, to ensure without discrimination and to promote identity options beyond binary male / female; Ensure proportionality in the use of sex and gender markers on official documents so that

! A seat at the table for the LGBTI lobby.



Lyle Shelton, Managing Director

**I cannot tell you just how thankful I am to the thousands of ACL supporters like you who have already joined the fight.**

# From Lyle to you

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



## 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](http://www.aec.gov.au) for more information.**

## ELECTION UPDATES

**Keep up to date at [acl.org.au](http://acl.org.au) for our election coverage!**  
**And while you're there, please complete the online policy questionnaire.**



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