



The **Only** Truly Conservative Alternative



2016 Federal Election Policies

Contents:

1. One Law For All Australians p. 2-3
2. Education p. 4-5
3. Health p. 6-7
4. Infrastructure p. 8-10
5. Crime Prevention p. 11-16
6. Halal Certification Food Labelling p. 17-20
7. Family & Marriage p. 21-22
8. Gambling p. 21-22
9. Tax payer funding of the ABC & SBS p. 23-24
10. Immigration and Refugees p.26
11. Taxation p. 27-28
12. GST p. 29
13. Medicinal Cannabis p. 30
14. Freedom of Speech p. 31
15. Environment and Climate Change p. 32-33
16. Penalty Rates p. 34
17. Pro-Life p. 35
18. Rural Issues & General Principles p. 36-38
19. Water p. 39-40
20. Media, Internet & Censorship p. 41-42
21. Child Abuse p. 43
22. Face Coverings p. 44
23. AHRC p. 45-46
24. Religious Freedom p. 47
25. Negative Gearing p. 48

1. One Law For All Australians

Introduction

The CDP strongly supports a policy of one law for all Australian citizens regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, or faith. The CDP also upholds that the standard of law should remain solidly grounded and consistent with those on which our national identity and culture were founded upon, while ensuring equality for all.

Freedom of Speech

The CDP supports the principle of freedom of speech and expression when that expression does not incite or promote criminal activity as recognised under Australian federal or state law, or can be proven to be deceitful or based on false information.

The CDP also recognises that in some instances certain speech or expression may be considered offensive or insulting to some, however these emotional responses are subjective based on the personal opinions of those concerned and therefore should not be the foundation for any legislation to limit freedom of speech and expression.

As such the CDP supports the removal of the words 'offend' and 'insult' from section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975.

Freedom of Activity

The CDP supports freedom of activity when that activity does not endanger any other individual or group, or qualifies as a criminal activity as recognised under Australian federal or state law.

As with Freedom of Speech, the CDP also recognises that in some instances certain activities may be considered offensive to some, however these emotional responses are subjective to the personal opinions of those concerned and therefore should not be the foundation for any legislation to limit such activity.

Further, the CDP supports the law being applied equally to all Australians without exception - regardless of other religious or cultural preferences. As such, laws and regulations such as those regarding security and public safety need to be applied equally. An example might be where an individual may not enter a business, court or any other premises while wearing a face covering e.g. motorcycle helmet, hat, scarf etc due to a potential security risk, however a burqa, hijab or niqab continues to be permitted.

Freedom of Religion

Although the CDP is founded upon Christian principles, morals and values, we fully support the freedom of choice in regards to Religion or the choice to reject spiritual faith of any kind.

However, as Australia as a modern nation is founded upon a Christian based heritage and in the last Census over 62% of the population identified as Christian there can be no denying Christianity has a foundational place within our cultural identity. Therefore, the CDP supports the rights of churches, institutions, schools and individuals to uphold their Christian beliefs in the public sphere without fear of bullying and litigation.

The CDP believes that the adherents of other religions are entitled to freedom of worship

The **Only** Truly Conservative Alternative

1. One Law For All Australians

and expression provided that they also accept that Christian beliefs and practices can continue to be upheld freely. Adherents of non-Christian religions should recognise that in case of conflict between their tradition and Christian traditions, the Christian practice prevails out of respect for Australia's well established Christian heritage. For example, CDP supports the observance of Christmas and Easter by State schools and local governments, however there should at no time be any compulsion to participate in such traditions.

CDP opposes any formal legal recognition of Islamic sharia law or other culturally or religious based legal system to ensure one set of laws applies equally to all Australians, irrespective of religion or ethnicity. This would include areas such as Halal certification which may result in discrimination within the workplace where only Muslims can be employed for the slaughtering of meat etc. A further example might be where a religious belief prohibits a product from free availability to those not of that religion and/or at a cost, such as a certification fee.

Related Policies

- Policy 6: Halal Certification Food Labelling
- Policy 14: S18C Racial Discrimination ACT
- Policy 23: Australian Human Rights Commission

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

Introduction

The Christian Democratic Party recognises that the future of the nation lies in the hands of the children of today. To ensure the younger generation is fully empowered we acknowledge that education is one of the most key areas that must be addressed.

In addition, the CDP appreciates that further education and training is not only a requirement for youth, but also essential for many adults already in the workforce or seeking employment. We believe higher education has a vital dual role in our society as an engine of economic growth, through educating our workforce and producing quality research.

Key Points:

- The CDP will protect TAFE. Generations of Australians have accessed high quality vocational education through TAFE, leading to secure, well paid jobs. TAFE has been targeted across Australia with State governments in Victoria, NSW and Queensland making cuts to their TAFE institutes. As a result, courses are being closed, jobs have been lost and fees are increasing.
- Increased funding for Christian schools.
- Equal access to funding for Christian tertiary providers and their students.
- The CDP will work towards a universal standard of education across the country offering all students equal opportunities.
- The CDP will investigate the present 'ATAR' marking system with the aim to provide a more efficient and fair manner of grading based on the individual student's personal merits and abilities.
- The CDP will offer more Cert. iv course certificates/pre-apprenticeship courses in schools that are recognised by prospective employers.
- The CDP will support teachers in the classroom by ensuring our curriculum is rigorous without being too prescriptive or overcrowded, while also focusing on subject areas best suited to providing employment in the future.
- The CDP will encourage schools to help students better utilise 'free periods' through study groups and other similar structures.
- The CDP would help improve the education skills of teachers through more refresher courses and regular assessments.
- The CDP will put parents, principals and school communities, not unaccountable bureaucrats, in charge of determining how their school will be run to improve performance – by instilling a 'students come first' culture amongst staff and ensuring the delivery of better education outcomes at the local school level.
- The CDP will work with the States and Territories to encourage State schools to choose to become independent schools, providing simpler budgeting and resources allocation and more autonomy in decision making.

The Only Truly Conservative Alternative

- The CDP will continue current levels of funding for schools, indexed to deal with real increases in costs and we will ensure that money is targeted based on the social and economic situation of the community.
- The CDP will invest further resources into improving the teaching and learning of Science in Primary Schools. We will restore the Primary Connections science education programme which is strongly supported by Australian Nobel Laureate, Professor Brian Schmidt, following recent Labor cuts to the successful programme.
- The CDP will work together with social media operators, schools, parents and children to tackle cyber bullying and other harmful material and behaviour targeted at individual children online, by measures such as ensuring large social media operators rapidly remove harmful online material directed at children.
- The CDP would encourage schools to provide an independent counsellor or similar to whom students and/or their parents can address complaints of harassment by staff.
- The CDP will continue the National School Chaplaincy Programme in Schools to support the emotional wellbeing of students.
- The CDP will ensure freedom of voluntary religious education and for the freedom of Christian schools to operate under Christian principles.
- The CDP will work with the States to aim to have 40 per cent of Year 12 students studying a foreign language, preferably an Asian language, within a decade to equip them with the skills necessary for the jobs of the future.
- The CDP will strengthen higher education and encourage Australians of all ages to further their education so that they can gain a comparative advantage and get ahead in the new global economy.
- The CDP will ensure the continuation of the current arrangements for university funding.
- The CDP will work with education/trade skills providers to reduce the burden of red tape, regulation and reporting, freeing up the sector to concentrate on delivering results and services.
- The CDP will review and restructure government funding of research to make sure each dollar is spent as effectively as possible.
- The CDP will invest further in advanced job skills training – including trade skills.
- The CDP will boost and retain skills in the workplace and give incentives to employers to take both young and older Australians off welfare and into work.
- The CDP immigration programme will focus on skilled migrants targeting skills shortages and people who can immediately contribute in the workforce.

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

3. Health

Key Summary

The Christian Democratic Party (CDP) recognises that a 'healthy' nation requires an efficient and affordable Health system for all Australians. Our elected Senators and MP's will campaign vigorously for increased funding to our hospitals and monitor waiting times across the nation.

- The CDP will work with the States to ensure their hospitals are managed by local hospital boards so that communities get better health services and better value for their money.
- The CDP will put local communities and experts, not unaccountable bureaucrats, in charge of improving the performance of public hospitals – by creating community-controlled hospital boards to appoint the CEO and manage hospital budgets, by instilling a 'patient care first' culture amongst staff and ensuring the delivery of better health outcomes at the local hospital level.
- The CDP calls for urgent funding for Aged Care Facilities. It is essential to have high-quality care and to ensure registered nurses are on duty at all times. The CDP calls for adequate funding to provide for 24/7 registered nurses in all aged care facilities.
- The CDP will ensure that urgent funding is allocated to assisting children and families suffering from Juvenile Arthritis across the country. There are approximately 6,000 children living with Arthritis in NSW alone.
- The CDP will work with the pharmaceutical industry to provide affordable medication for all Australians. The CDP will restore transparency and confidence to the process by which medicines are listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). We will ensure medicines are listed on the basis of advice from the independent Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, not on the whim of the government.
- The CDP will take real action and support better mental health services with Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centres (EPPICs), boosting of basic and applied research into mental health, new headspace sites, better employment opportunities to those with serious mental health problems, boosting outside services that job agencies can provide to clients with mental health issues, and a Mental Health Workforce Training Institute.
- The CDP will review the results of current NSW trial into Medicinal Cannabis. Alleviating pain for the terminally ill is a policy that CDP is committed to however we

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

must also ensure that Medicinal Cannabis is strictly governed and made available for the right purposes where it is medically proven to assist in alleviating pain.

- The CDP will work towards introducing subsidies and further aid for household and vehicle modifications for the disabled and impaired.
- The CDP will work towards more cooperation between states and federal governments
- The CDP will work towards more coordination at local level between local providers e.g. rehabilitation
- The CDP will work towards providing affordable basic dental care under Medicare.
- The CDP will work towards bringing more medical and dental care to rural Australians.
- The CDP will promote further participation in sport and other healthy living activities, especially to our nation's youth to help combat obesity and associated preventable illnesses.
- The CDP will push to introduce bans on 'junk food' advertising that targets minors, and support the promotion of team sports and other healthy living activities.

4. Infrastructure

Key Points

- The Christian Democratic Party (CDP) will ensure that all relevant information in regards to upgrades on any form of infrastructure is readily available to the general public for scrutiny. The CDP believes in full transparency.
- The CDP will negotiate with the relevant state and local governmental departments and independent organisations in relation to funding for upgrades to infrastructure based not on political agendas, but on the needs of the community.
- The CDP will negotiate with the private sector to participate in infrastructure projects through investment.
- The CDP will encourage new and innovative methods of improving infrastructure.
- The CDP does not support the selling of Australian assets that provide for infrastructure. These services are to remain solely under Australian control.
- The CDP supports ongoing research and development into improving energy supplies and to ensure a sustainable supply for future generations.
- The CDP supports all Australians having access to quality telecommunications, including isolated regions.

Introduction

The CDP recognises that an efficient infrastructure is an essential element for any modern society to flourish both economically and socially. This includes all areas, including both physical and organisational, which our society is dependent upon.

In New South Wales, the CDP has a proud history of supporting major infrastructure projects that have benefited the entire State.

The CDP will work towards providing a more efficient Health system to all Australians as we believe that the people themselves are the key element to any form of infrastructure both in every other aspect's application and for the benefit of each individual citizen.

The CDP believes that education and training is an essential element of any infrastructure system in both its ongoing maintenance and for research and development to ensure its future. (see our Education Policy)

The CDP will endeavour to improve our social security system by examining potential areas of inefficiency and working towards practical solutions to better serve all Australians. The CDP believes that a financial security net is essential for those who for no fault of their own may require assistance.

Security and Essential services

The CDP believes that a priority area is Australia's ability to protect its citizens and all within our nation from any threat that could disrupt or even destroy essential services or other areas of infrastructure. These threats may include criminal or terrorist activity, foreign attack or even natural disasters, any of which could potentially undermine the efficiency of essential and all other services and endanger the general public.

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

4. Infrastructure

Therefore:

The CDP believes that full support must be given to maintain our defence forces at the highest level through ongoing training at suitable facilities, equipment, and all services necessary to ensure Australia's ability to conduct national defence and ensure national security. Further to this, the CDP will work to keep Australia's defence forces free of any politically motivated agendas to ensure a bipartisan approach towards whatever political leaning the nation has in power at any time.

The CDP believes that full support must be given to maintain our judicial systems, including both federal and state police forces, Correctional facilities, courts and all associated areas of the justice departments at the highest level through ongoing training at suitable facilities, equipment and all services necessary to ensure Australia's ability to maintain law and order and to ensure all Australians can feel safe in their own country. Further to this, the CDP will work to keep Australia's Judicial systems free of any politically motivated agendas to ensure a bipartisan approach towards whatever political leaning the nation has in power at any time.

Transport

The CDP recognises that an efficient transport system including road, rail, air and maritime is essential to the maintenance and growth of Australia and the needs of all citizens. We recognise that roads and other areas of transportation are part of the foundation of almost all services and infrastructure of the nation. If roads, rail, air or maritime transportation were destroyed, made unavailable or even degraded for any extended time period this could cause significant harm to both the economic and social condition of a region or in the worst scenario, the nation.

Therefore the CDP feel a strong priority must be given to these areas of infrastructure.

Road and Rail

The CDP understands that as Australians are often separated by vast distances it is vital to maintain an efficient road transport infrastructure for both individual members of the community, essential service vehicles and for the transporting of freight upon which our economy and prosperity is largely dependent upon.

However, the CDP also appreciates that the needs of the cities and major towns often vary from that of regional centres and therefore each must be addressed based on their own merit and circumstance.

Cities

The CDP recognises the many challenges of Australian cities, including the expanding population and the resulting growth in dependence upon transportation and the burden that places on both road, rail and ferry services (where applicable), in particular for those commuting regularly for employment and other reasons.

The CDP will negotiate with the relevant state and local governmental departments and independent motoring organisations in identifying problem locations etc with the goal of forming alternative solutions.

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

4. Infrastructure Policy

The CDP will negotiate with the relevant state and local governmental and independent providers of public transport to identify how these services can be improved.

The CDP acknowledges that at times members of the local community who regularly use specific roads or rail lines can be more aware of problem areas and so we will encourage more active involvement from the public in assessing solutions to all transportation issues.

The CDP is aware that parking for private vehicles, especially for rail commuters, is often difficult. As such we will negotiate with the relevant state and local governmental departments as to how this issue can be improved.

The CDP will negotiate with the relevant state and local governmental departments with the intention of ensuring that funding for infrastructure upgrades equally includes the needs of outer suburbs where much of the general community abides.

Regional

The CDP remembers the regional areas of Australia and acknowledges that these areas are essential to the prosperity of our nation. It's estimated that about two thirds of all Australian exports are created through industries in regional Australia ranging from mining and agriculture to tourism, while also including retail, manufacturing and various other services.

As such the need for an efficient infrastructure in these areas can never be understated, not just for the local community but for the nation as a whole.

Therefore the CDP will negotiate with both local regional communities and their relevant state and local governments in identifying problem issues and developing improvements to the present infrastructure based on the specific circumstances of the individual region.

Airports

The CDP has great concerns regarding the challenges faced by some regional airports to maintain services to local communities. It has been estimated that as many as 50% are operating at a loss and are dependent on subsidies from government owners already under financial pressure.

The CDP therefore proposes discussions with airport operators, relevant governments and local communities as to how to develop other activities or services that could be used to generate incomes to maintain services, rather than risk further isolation for many Australians in rural and remote communities.

Related Policies

- Policy 2: Education

5. Crime Prevention

Introduction

The **Christian Democratic Party** recognises the need for further action to be taken in relation to crime, both in regards to prevention and rehabilitation, with the priority given to the safety and well-being of the community in general.

To this end the **CDP** believes the root causes of crime must be addressed and preventative measures be put in place to minimise offences.

General

- The **CDP** will work towards more coordination between the federal and state governments and judicial systems to achieve more unity and consistency in regards to both law and penalties across the nation.
- The **CDP** seeks to call for a study into mandatory sentences for major crimes.
- The **CDP** calls for stricter customs control and would work towards empowering our customs officers by negotiating with them as to how their efforts can be made more efficient and reviewing present procedures.
- The **CDP** will work towards more cooperation with foreign law enforcement agencies and suspend all activities of foreign criminal or terrorist organisations that are banned or outlawed in other countries while a full investigation is undertaken into their presence here in Australia.
- The **CDP** will promote tougher penalties for all serious crime.
- The **CDP** calls for all proceeds of crime to help fight crime and support the victims of crime through criminal compensation, counselling, and similar services.
- The **CDP** calls for more action to be taken to combat all forms of 'cyber-crime'.

Drugs and alcohol related crime

The **CDP** acknowledges that drug and/or alcohol abuse is one, if not the major, root cause of crime at many levels and as such should be given a major priority both for the prevention of crime and the rehabilitation of offenders. The **CDP** believes until a zero tolerance approach is adopted with regard to drug and alcohol abuse, little major improvement in crime control can be expected.

1. The **CDP** supports legislation to further education programs that illustrate how lives are better without drugs or excessive use of alcohol by focusing on early intervention and rehabilitation.
2. The **CDP** calls for more easily accessible education programs for parents about the dangers of addiction and how to recognise the signs of abuse to facilitate early intervention and how to empower parents to act quickly with the benefit of accurate and comprehensive information.
3. The **CDP** calls for further compulsory school programs that give honest and accurate information on the dangers of drug use with a focus on how to say "no" to drugs.

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

5. Crime Prevention

4. The CDP will provide easily accessible treatment, aimed at abstinence rather than maintaining a 'controlled' addiction.
5. The CDP supports instigating government research into the benefits of increasing the drinking age to 21.
6. The CDP supports initiatives between government and private industry that incorporate socially responsible messages and the application of a nation-wide Alcohol Advertising Code, based on the same standards as have been applied in regards to the banning of tobacco advertising due to the recognised impact of TV and radio content on children's values, beliefs and behaviour and the evident success of the tobacco advertising ban.

Further actions to combat drug and alcohol related offences would be:

1. The CDP calls for increased and improved border controls by better funding and support for Customs.
2. The CDP calls for heavier penalties not only for large scale professional traffickers of illegal substances but also for ordinary users and 'pushers'
3. The CDP supports stricter controls to limit the possibility of the use and distribution of drugs through the prison system, along with all other forms of contraband.
4. The CDP believes that parole should not be available to repeat offenders. Parole should only be granted if the perpetrator has successfully completed a rehabilitation course, has not broken previous parole conditions and is no longer considered at risk of re-offending.
5. The CDP calls for the confiscation of assets of convicted traffickers.
6. The CDP supports the suspension of medically supervised injection centres and needle exchange programs until independent studies can be undertaken to assess the benefits of such programs in comparison to the potential detrimental effects such as an increase in the number of addicts, facilitating the spread of Hepatitis C, rises in drug overdose deaths, and the adverse effects on local businesses and the community.
7. The CDP supports a more restrictive business hour policy for hotels, bars, nightclubs and other similar venues due to the wide ranging social problems often occurring late at night/early morning.
8. The CDP does not support the provision of alcohol through supermarket chains.
9. The CDP will encourage and support greater co-operation between all federal and state law enforcement departments, customs, and government.
10. The CDP will offer more support for the victims of crime.

Child Abuse

The CDP also recognises that child abuse is not only an horrific crime in itself but that it also causes psychological and emotional damage to the victim that may result in later anti-social or criminal behaviour. For this reason and for the protection of children

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

5. Crime Prevention

in every sense, the CDP's policy response to child abuse is a major priority. The root causes of child abuse need to be acknowledged. As well this, the contributing factors of homelessness, mental health, alcohol and drugs require urgent attention. Coordination between health, welfare and related community services is essential.

- The CDP recognizes that child abuse can take a number of forms: children can be abused sexually but also physically and psychologically.
- The CDP encourages reporting of child abusers by anyone who has reasonable grounds for doing so, especially by people engaged in children's services such as health care, education, carers, refuge workers and police.
- The CDP believes that an effective child protection policy requires coordination at the national level.
- The CDP supports the concept of a national register of convicted offenders to facilitate monitoring by law enforcement authorities.
- The CDP supports more training should be given to people involved in children's services to facilitate the early detection of abuse.
- Concerning the consequences of long term child abuse, the CDP supports added training be made available to teachers and court officials to make them more aware of the high priority that should be accorded to prevention, prohibition, rehabilitation and victim compensation.
- The CDP acknowledges that much child abuse occurs in family types not structured on traditional marriage. CDP therefore supports programs that highlight the social utility of marriage between a man and a woman for life, and to the exclusion of all others.
- The CDP acknowledges that child abuse offenders are overrepresented in Aboriginal and other communities, and it is essential that policies recognizing the cultural sensitivities of these communities be implemented.
- The CDP believes that recommendations made by the Gordon Inquiry that have not yet been implemented should be acted upon.
- The CDP believes that sentences should reflect the severity and frequency of the perpetrated abuse.
- Where bilateral agreements allow, the CDP supports deporting child abusers who are not Australian citizens to serve their sentence in their country of origin.
- The CDP believes that more research should be carried out into the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs; government grants should also be available to organizations that provide services to child offenders' victims.
- The CDP does not accept that the use of reasonable physical discipline by parents or others acting on behalf of parents (e.g. school teachers) is a form of child abuse. CDP opposes any legislative proposal to criminalise reasonable use of discipline.

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

5. Crime Prevention

Ideologically Based Crime

The CDP believes that all Australians have the right to freedom of choice in regards to religion and other ideological viewpoints. However, history shows that in some cases such freedom can allow for extremist and other activities deemed illegal by Australian morals, culture and law to flourish and/or be promoted, condoned and excused. This is further illustrated by the rise in recent years of ideologically based crimes in Australia.

For this reason:

- The CDP will work towards banning or limiting any organisation, institution, group, club, place of worship, or publication that promotes violence in any form.
- The CDP will work towards banning or limiting any organisation, institution, group, club, place of worship, or publication that promotes any action to impose or force their beliefs on others through threats, intimidation, terror, coercion, or any means deemed illegal under Australian law.
- The CDP will work towards banning or limiting any organisation, institution, group, club, place of worship, or publication that promotes their followers, or others, to submit to an alternative legal system if in any way that legal system is found to conflict with that of the nation of Australia, its states and territories.
- The CDP will work towards banning or limiting any organisation, institution, group, club, place of worship, or publication that in any way supports another organisation, institution, group, club, place of worship, or publication in breach of Australian law and that of its states and territories.
- The CDP will work towards banning or limiting any organisation, institution, group, club, place of worship, or publication that promotes any legislation or other action to silence free speech and/or critical discussion of a religion or an ideological viewpoint in question.
- The CDP will work towards banning or limiting any organisation, institution, group, club, place of worship, or publication that promotes communities within Australia to not integrate into Australian society, its legal systems, customs and values.
- The CDP will work towards banning or limiting any other elements that may not be advocating the use of violence or crime, nonetheless are intent on transforming Australia into another culture by gradualist processes such as mass immigration, demands for (initially) limited introduction of alternative legal systems, or any means that may threaten the Australian culture and way of life, its morals, values and legal and democratic systems etc.

In view of the above:

The CDP believes that Islam poses a considerable challenge to the maintenance of Australia as a free society with a Christian heritage. As such, the CDP considers it is appropriate to meet this challenge by calling for a 10-year moratorium on Islamic immigration into Australia as a starting point for a serious national and public discussion

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

5. Crime Prevention

on this issue, while also monitoring the willingness of the existing Islamic community to abandon support for terrorism, sharia law and separate communities.

Citizenship and Criminal Activity

The CDP acknowledges that Australia as a nation in its present form was to a large extent built as a penal colony to which later many migrated from many ethnic and cultural backgrounds. However, today we no longer need to import criminals to help establish a colony, today we need law abiding citizens to help build a nation.

To this end when most migrants are granted citizenship they swear an oath to respect and obey our laws and this oath is part of the very foundation of the covenant between Australia and them on which their citizenship was granted.

“From this time forward, (“under God” optional),
I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people,
whose democratic beliefs I share,
whose rights and liberties I respect, and
whose laws I will uphold and obey.”

However, there are a small minority who are not committed to their oath, nor abiding by our laws.

If then they break that oath by committing crime, they break the covenant with Australia on which that citizenship was granted.

As such, the CDP calls for the nullification of citizenship for all major convictions and repeat offenders, and a period of probation for lesser offences.

Face Coverings

The CDP acknowledges that due to security reasons there are times and in certain places there is a clear need for a person’s face to be clearly recognisable for the purposes of identification.

Likewise, there are times when it may be necessary for the removal of a face covering at the request of law enforcement officers or security and/or general staff while on their premises or place of work.

However, at present this applies to various forms of face coverings ranging from motorcycle helmets to sunglasses yet in many situations a person wearing a burqa or other religious based face covering is exempted from such scrutiny.

The CDP finds this highly discriminatory and creates a potential safety risk to all Australian citizens. In fact, many Islamic nations themselves have banned such face coverings as they recognise the very same security risk.

Further, the CDP also recognises the fact that until identification can be confirmed there

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

5. Crime Prevention

is at times no way to determine if the wearer is actually wearing such face coverings for religious reasons or alternatively purely as they know there is little chance of being asked to remove it.

As such the CDP calls for a ban on all face coverings of any type and in any place where bans on other forms of face covering are already being enforced. The only exception being safety related equipment and/or when medically required, and with appropriate evidence to show the cause is justified.

Media/Entertainment Industry/Public Role Models

The CDP affirms also that the media and entertainment industries should hold some accountability of the potential that exists to influence children, and therefore reflect and support the values of Australian culture and should at no time 'glorify' or in any other way promote or condone drug and/or alcohol abuse or any other form of criminal activity.

The CDP applauds sports associations and sportsmen who have assumed a leadership role in promoting zero tolerance of illicit drugs. However, the CDP supports that this be taken further through the promotion of voluntary illicit drug testing of professional sports people and other celebrities to help ensure these men and women remain positive role models to our Australian youth. Similarly, CDP supports random illicit drug testing of all Federal and State parliamentarians.

Further, the CDP believe that as standards have deteriorated over the years as to what is acceptable it would appear that industry self-regulation is not working, Therefore the CDP supports the introduction of a new scheme with greater enforcement powers by which the standards for television and radio content could be rigorously enforced with significant penalties for breaches, including loss of license, imposed by the appropriate authority.

6. Halal Certification Food Labelling

Key Points

- The Christian Democratic Party (CDP) strongly opposes the present halal certification based on many factors and calls for a full and public federal investigation into the halal certification industry and full accountability as to all proceeds and profits by that industry.

Introduction

Halal certification fees are in essence a religious “tax” comparable to the Jizya tax that has been inflicted upon non-Muslims in Islamic dominant nations since the early years of their faith. The fee itself is initially paid by the producer which adds to their overall running expenses and as with all operational costs is then passed onto the consumer.

Halal certification schemes are a transfer of wealth from the average Aussie and Australian producer and manufacturer to promote a religion that often advocates the abuse of human rights and undermines many aspects of the Australian culture and identity.

Aussies are often unwitting participants because products are not labelled clearly. Producers and manufacturers of said products are not always frank and honest with their customers. It is unacceptable that all Australians are being forced to pay a religious tax.

The various Governments over the years have also been complicit in this fundraising venture. A ‘good’ is produced, the halal tax is added, then the 10 per cent Goods and Services Tax is added.

The State is directly benefiting from the religious “tax”, something that is clearly anti-constitutional. Consumers across Australia have rightly expressed their anger at this scheme through the current Federal senate inquiry into third party certification.

As such, the CDP calls for this to end and for it to be replaced by one non-profit central government body, which can offer clear and obvious certification and labelling to assure an informed choice to all consumers.

There is clearly an increasing world-wide concern over the lack of transparency of the use of the monetary proceeds accumulated by the halal industry. While nobody really knows where the money goes— an estimated \$3 trillion globally—we do know that the funds raised make millionaires out of the certifiers. We know that funds go towards advocating the religion of Islam. We know that funds go to support the building of mosques and other institutions.

Very few Australians would tolerate such a scheme if it were perpetuated by any other religion, yet our nation has found itself submitting to this religious “fee” being applied to goods—many foods for which there are no substitutes. In fact, the list of products that are halal certified is now potentially longer than the list of products that are not. Australian consumers are entitled to know where their money is going. We should not have a structure whereby consumers contribute to the advancement of Islamic beliefs and practices without their knowledge and consent.

The CDP calls for an end of discrimination against the consumer

One of the primary reasons the CDP calls for an end to the present halal certification

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

6. Halal Certification Food Labelling

schemes is its discriminatory nature against the vast majority of Australians who do not necessarily want to consume food and buy products which have been prepared, handled, transported and prayed on by the Islamic god, Allah, in accordance with Islamic Sharia law, or fund any particular religion that they may not hold faith in.

All people in this country ought to enjoy religious freedom—that is the freedom to choose or reject religious rituals, and whether or not they want to fund them.

Australians opposed to halal certification are not bigots. They simply want to enjoy the tolerance and freedom supposedly available to everyone in our democracy.

The CDP calls for an end to discrimination within the workplace

The halal processes, rituals and requirements are based on Islamic Sharia law, which can govern and control every process including the production, transportation, handling, storage, and slaughtering, as well as employment prerequisites.

There are discriminating factors in the halal industry which need to be assessed and examined such as cases of employment of Islamic males within many roles in the industry. These roles include positions in slaughter companies, management, food handling, transportation and also the certification process.

This form of discrimination against both women and non-Muslims is clearly un-Australian and must be addressed.

The CDP is against such discrimination in the workplace which only benefits less than 3% of the population that require halal products.

The CDP calls for a clear and self-explanatory labelling

The CDP calls for a clear and self-explanatory labelling system be applied so that consumers can make informed decisions in accordance with their dietary requirements and religious beliefs.

There are many people who choose not to consume halal products. It is wrong that the Government has allowed Islamic Sharia law to impose its rituals and religion on every Australian citizen often without their consent or understanding.

The CDP would introduce changes which would allow all Australians to make clear, conscious choices catering for their dietary and religious needs when purchasing food and other products. Australians should not be forced to buy halal certified food, instead they must be given a clear choice.

Ultimately, the desired outcome of the halal certification inquiry, will be to assure that all Australians are represented fairly, to strengthen Australian labelling standards and to empower consumers with the knowledge required to make informed decisions.

Is Halal certification even necessary?

The CDP calls for a federal investigation into why particular products require a “halal certification” and a standard be set as to what and why products in the future may require it.

There have been estimates that approximately 90% of Australian meat, including beef,

The Only Truly Conservative Alternative

6. Halal Certification Food Labelling

lamb, chicken and fish, is “halal certified” to indicate to the consumer that the animal was slaughtered under halal criteria and no cross contamination with non-halal products has occurred.

However, there are thousands of our supermarket products etc. including bread, dairy, fruit and vegetables, bottled water, shampoo, dog-food, even chocolate Easter eggs, that have been halal certified.

The CDP therefore questions why a certification fee is necessary for those products which are evidently “halal” by their very nature, or where being “halal” is unnecessary.

Currently the average Aussie household and Australian business, who are already under financial pressure, have to indirectly pay this extra fee, a fee that often states nothing but the obvious about the products - products that are already known to be halal, or in other words, permissible.

Allegations of animal cruelty

The CDP calls for a full and public investigation into the potential risk and allegations of animal cruelty during the slaughtering process in all abattoirs, meat works or any place where an animal’s life is taken.

It has been alleged that the halal (and kosher) slaughter process does not at all times abide with the Australian slaughtering standards which require animals to be unconscious before slaughtering to prevent any suffering or pain as opposed to the unlawful and barbaric slaughter process when performed on conscious animals. This is due to exemptions being issued on religious grounds.

Further, the CDP recognises that the most humane, while remaining practical, method of slaughter involves an irreversible stunning method, whereas due to the requirements under halal certification a reversible stunning method is often used which may allow the animal to regain consciousness before it bleeds out and dies after having its throat cut.

As such, ***the CDP rejects the use of the less humane method of reversible stunning and exemptions based on religious grounds and demands that the most humane method of slaughter be used in all cases.***

Does Halal certification conform to Australia’s democratic society?

The CDP acknowledges that in our democratic political system the role of government is to represent the will of all the people of our nation, not just a small minority.

It is a fundamental right of all citizens to question halal certification, demand transparency and call for an end to having halal certification forced upon them.

Australians are concerned about third party certification, most notably halal certification. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that the current Federal senate inquiry into third party certification has received the largest number of submissions to an inquiry.

Australian consumers want answers

The public needs, and is entitled to, extensive information about halal certifiers and halal

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

6. Halal Certification Food Labelling

certification.

Many people are concerned about the lack of labelling and the hidden nature of halal certification. Organic, kosher and heart tick goods are clearly labelled so that consumers have a choice. Halal is often not labelled and therefore consumers believe halal fees and Islamic religious rituals are being imposed upon them.

Many Christians, Jews, Sikhs, Buddhists, atheists, and others object to having religious rituals imposed upon them through their everyday grocery purchases and ***the CDP is committed to ensuring the Australian public regardless of race, colour, ethnicity or faith is freed from having any religious or other cultural practice enforced upon them.***

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7. Family & Marriage

Key Points

- The Christian Democratic Party (CDP) opposes any changes to the Marriage Act
- The CDP believes strongly in the traditional view that marriage is the union between one man and one woman
- At present the law concerning marriage is already 'equal' in every sense
- Causing marriage to become a genderless institution would only undermine the credibility of any efforts to address the problems associated with children who have become either 'fatherless' or 'motherless'.
- The CDP rejects that simply loving each other is reason enough to re-define marriage as that same reasoning would have to be applied to all unions between consenting adults including polygamy and incest
- The CDP also acknowledges the numerous problems caused by same sex marriage in those nations that have accepted it.

Introduction

The CDP strongly believes in the traditional and biblical definition of marriage, which is the union between one man and one woman. We believe that most Australians are concerned about the sort of nation and world future generations will grow up in, including the issues related to the decline of moral values and traditions our modern nation was founded upon.

The CDP also believes that the traditional view of a 'family', being that of a father, mother and children is the most beneficial to society's development, both on the individual level and on a national level. As in any situation there are circumstances whereby the best option cannot or does not occur, however if we as a nation are to progress then we must do all possible to ensure that the better option has the most chance of success, we must not promote or condone an alternative that offers less than the best. The CDP believes that the best option for a child or children is to grow up with both a father and mother.

The CDP Opposes Same Sex Marriage

Those that call for same-sex 'marriage' in effect reject the entire concept as they propose the union between two men or two women. This denies the self-evident biological, physiological, and psychological differences between men and women which complement each other through the union of marriage. It also denies the primary practical purpose of marriage: to raise children for the perpetuation of the human race.

The CDP recognises that those who propose amendments to the Marriage Act to include same sex couples often present what may seem like compelling arguments however we find that claims such as a call for 'equality', or 'if two consenting adults love each other' they should have a 'choice', to be both misleading and without credibility.

At present the law concerning marriage is already 'equal' in every sense. Any man has as much right to form a union with a woman as any other man, just as any woman has as much right to form a union with a man as any other woman. There are no exceptions based on sexual preference or any other reason. It is one law equally applied to all.

The **Only** Truly Conservative Alternative

7. Family & Marriage

Further, we reject that 'simply loving each other' is reason enough to re-define marriage as the same reasoning would have to be applied to all forms of unions between consenting adults including polygamy and incest.

The CDP totally rejects the notion of re-defining marriage to include same sex couples, or any other alternative relationships. We hold firmly to supporting and re-enforcing the traditional and biblical definition of marriage and believe the current efforts and use of resources by the government in this area could better serve our nation by focusing on the issues that are already contributing to family breakdowns, that so often have detrimental effects on the children whom are the innocent victims of these situations. Causing marriage to become a genderless institution would only undermine the credibility of any efforts to address the problems associated with children who have become either 'fatherless' or 'motherless'.

The CDP also acknowledges the numerous problems caused by same sex marriage in those nations that have accepted it. One example is the attacks on freedom of speech; where the beliefs of businesses, schools and individuals have been challenged resulting in them being forced to sacrifice their own convictions and submit to supporting the beliefs of those in favour of same sex marriage.

The CDP adamantly opposes any changes of law that may result in the loss of people's ability to live and act freely according to their beliefs for the sole purpose of granting the desires of others, undermines the family unit or erodes the moral and traditional values on which Australia is founded upon.

The Turnbull Government has promised to hold a 'plebiscite' on marriage. Shorten's Labor Party have promised to legislate for Homosexual marriage within 100 days of winning government.

The only way to truly maintain the traditional definition of marriage in Australia is to elect CDP MP's and Senators across the nation and join us in our full time campaign to uphold Traditional Marriage in our blessed nation.

Related Policies

- Policy 14: S18C Racial Discrimination ACT
- Policy 23: Australian Human Rights Commission

8. Gambling

Introduction

The CDP recognises that for the vast majority of Australians gambling is little more than an occasional 'flutter' at the races or the odd lottery ticket, 'scratchie', a few dollars in the 'pokies', or even a night at a casino.

To most gambling is merely a form of light entertainment, however to some gambling can become a very destructive addiction resulting in the ruin of their own lives and extremely damaging to those around them. In fact, the problems associated with problem gambling by an individual have been estimated to have a negative effect on between 5 to 10 others and the cost to the community is estimated to be over \$4.7 billion per year.

Problem gamblers themselves often suffer both physical and mental health problems, and they often have issues maintaining relationships and employment. They are estimated to be six times more likely than non-gamblers to get divorced and four times more likely to suffer from alcohol addiction and abuse.

Statistics also suggest that the problems associated with gambling addiction can lead to these issues being perpetuated in future generations as estimates show children with parents who are problem gamblers are up to 10 times more likely to become problem gamblers themselves than children with non-gambling parents.

For these reasons the CDP has identified the key areas we believe need to be addressed in regards to gambling, along with ongoing support for relevant counselling services and support networks for those afflicted with an addiction to gambling in any of its forms.

Live Betting and Sport Betting Advertising

The CDP believes Live Betting and online sports advertising is the new frontier of gambling harm as Australia is a sports loving nation. Children should not be conditioned to discuss live betting odds during live broadcasts of popular sporting events.

The CDP believes Live Betting and Online Sports advertising should be completely banned.

Poker Machines

The CDP acknowledges that Poker machines are one of the biggest contributors of gambling addiction with an estimated 75% of problem gamblers being 'pokie' players and 1 in 6 people who play 'pokies' having a severe gambling problem.

Adding to the problem is the attraction of the bright flashing lights and sounds of poker machines, their convenience being in many clubs and pubs across the nation, and the instant gratification and 'thrill' of the game. Combined with the simplicity of play, the addition of credit cards facilities built into machines, and the ability to gamble varying amounts at relatively high speeds the 'pokies' are a strong temptation.

These factors all contribute to why evidence shows that young adults aged between 18-24 years spend more on the 'pokies' than any other age group, and many older addicts of gambling state that their gambling problems began in their teenage or young adult

The Only Truly Conservative Alternative

8. Gambling

years. Poker machines are also identified as one of the major causes of problem gambling among women numbering approximately 90%.

For these reasons the CDP proposes the following to work towards the reduction of poker machine gambling:

- Limiting Maximum bets on Poker machines to \$1.00.
- Reducing Jackpots.
- The CDP supports a systematic reduction in the number of poker machines at venues, excepting those that are not-for-profit.
- The CDP supports only not-for-profit venues be permitted to install new poker machines.
- The CDP supports the disabling of credit card facilities on poker machines, with the exception of available funds from a savings account.
- The CDP supports reducing the maximum amount per bet for all poker machines.
- The CDP supports the placement of all poker machines in an area where they are totally concealed from both sight and sound.

Online and Phone Gambling

The CDP believes that online betting and allowing gambling on credit only adds to the problems associated with gambling addiction and as such requires much stricter regulating and control. This is in addition to the greater risks of corruption involved with 'in-play' gambling as advised by the government's Sport Integrity Unit.

As such:

- The CDP supports the appointment of a government operated Federal body to regulate all on-line or phone gambling rather than individual states and territory regulation.
- The CDP supports all revenue raised through taxes be used to address issues associated with problem gambling and corruption.
- The CDP supports a total ban on all on-line or phone gambling involving minor or local sporting matches as these are far more likely to fall to 'match fixing'. Only sporting events monitored by approved regulatory bodies should be allowed.
- The CDP supports a total ban on on-line or phone gambling using credit, preferring accounts where funds are available.
- The CDP supports a ban on all gambling advertising before 9pm.
- The CDP supports a total ban on 'offshore' gaming companies by blocking websites and transactions through Australian financial institutions unless they conform to all Australian regulations.

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Policy 9. Tax payer funding of the ABC & SBS

The national broadcasters - the ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) and SBS (Special Broadcasting Service) - both have a persistent and systemic left wing bias in its coverage of contemporary Australian political issues particularly on issues such as Climate Change, Marriage and Multiculturalism.

At times the biased coverage is so obvious that the ABC and SBS appear to be airing political advertising instead of covering the news or engaging in free and open debate.

SBS traditionally played a crucial role in broadcasting to new Australians and covering the world game of Football however even they have also since morphed into a left wing mega-phone for all left wing causes and conservatives rarely get any air time or are portrayed in a negative light. A recent example was SBS refusing to broadcast an anti-same sex marriage advertisement from its telecast of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade.

The Federal Government provided approximately \$287 million to SBS for the 2014 – 2015 year. The ABC receives over a \$1 Billion in tax payer funding.

Critics believe that privatisation of the ABC and SBS is the only way to resolve the public policy failure that sees more than \$1 billion of taxpayers' money annually spent campaigning for left wing causes that often attack our Christian faith and values.

When elected to Federal Parliament, our **CDP Senators and MP's will scrutinize government funding of the ABC and SBS and ensure that any government funding is conditional upon the delivery of essential services and a politically neutral broadcast that covers all political views.** The Australian Tax Payer expects this from both our National Broadcasters.

If the ABC and the SBS fail to deliver on both structural and ideological reform, then their funding should be cut and the national broadcasters forced to sell advertising and paid subscriptions online.

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Policy 10. Immigration and Refugees

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

CDP believes that there should be a strong priority given to Christian refugee minorities in Australia's humanitarian intake. Christians have long faced persecution and even genocide in countries such as Egypt, Libya, Syria, Iraq and elsewhere.

We currently have a humanitarian crisis which must be compassionately, strategically and logically addressed. The political and military challenges can no longer be ignored and we must aim to achieve the best possible outcomes. Under the current desperate circumstances, it's only logical to prioritise those whom are at greater risk of persecution, and those who are the direct target of ISIS, particularly in Iraq, Syria and Libya.

ISIS has consistently stated and televised to the world that this is a religious war aimed at eradicating the infidels, the non-believers, the non-Islamic population. The Australian Islamic community leaders, who have called those in support of prioritising Christian refugees as bigots, need to understand that those whom are at the greatest risk of being killed and targeted are those with the Christian faith.

Christians have clearly been the ultimate target of the barbaric atrocities which ISIS have consistently revealed to the world. In the past year the world has witnessed Christians brutally beheaded, raped, enslaved for sex, slaughtered, mutilated and crucified all aimed at religious cleansing.

Border Protection

CDP affirms that it is the sovereign right of any nation to determine who may enter its borders for temporary or permanent stay and that the operations of people smugglers should continue to be disrupted and frustrated.

CDP considers that Australia should treat unauthorised arrivals humanely, and expediently consider any claims they make for refugee status.

Persons who arrive illegally and make claims for protection that are proven false should be removed from Australia as soon as possible. Mandatory detention should continue for all persons without authority to be in Australia, although provisions for supervised release into the community for families with children should be considered.

Australia should continue to be a world leader in being a generous haven for genuine refugees through internationally supervised and orderly refugee resettlement programs. Priority should be given to refugee applicants who are most likely to readily integrate into the Australian way of life, including those who are being persecuted for their Christian faith.

General Migration

CDP's general skilled migration policy should target only the most critical professions. Otherwise, we need to ensure that all Australians have an opportunity to fill existing vacancies. Furthermore, all skilled migrants must have a high probability of successful integration into the Australian community and respect our nation's culture and laws.

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11. Taxation

Introduction

CDP supports a taxation system which would satisfy the following objectives:

- fund the necessary work and responsibilities of government;
- create an adequate tax base to ensure that the burden of taxation does not fall disproportionately on lower and middle income earners;
- remove the current disincentives for working harder, risk taking, wealth creation and innovation;
- remove the current incentives for tax evasion, property speculation, the black economy, and the 'overseas brain drain'.

Personal and Family Taxes

CDP supports a cut in the top tax rate to in order to restore work incentives. As a starting point for determining the top tax rate the CDP believes that the long term aim should be a tax and benefits system where no one faces effective tax rates higher than about 30%.

CDP supports a return to the indexation of tax brackets to stop governments' profiting from 'bracket creep'. CDP supports income splitting for household members related by blood or marriage.

CDP supports deductibility on interest accrued on owner occupied housing. CDP believes that this tax deduction for owner occupied housing should be capped to ensure that the benefit remains with the low or medium income earner. CDP continues to support retention of Capital Gains Tax exemption on all owner-occupied housing.

CDP supports the payment of a home maker allowance for families with young children to prevent both parents having to join the workforce and leaving the care of children to third party carers in their absence.

Savings and Retirement Taxes

CDP supports government consideration of saving-exempt income tax schemes in order to encourage savings. CDP supports a zero taxation policy on contributions to superannuation and payouts at retirement.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Any increase to the GST, will inevitably be detrimental to the many people and families who are already struggling to cater for their household needs and costs.

The proposal to broaden the GST to cover the items which are currently exempt, such as fresh food, is proof that the government has absolutely no concern nor consideration to the long-term health effects of such radical measures.

The government is currently confronting major challenges in the funding and delivery

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

11. Taxation

of health care and there are escalating problems arising with the decrease in the health workforce supply and distribution. An increase to the GST has been proposed by the government as a solution to generating the funds required to sustain a deteriorating health system.

CDP believes that there must be an overall strategic reform of our tax system which includes personal and business tax cuts and a review of payroll and stamp duty. A holistic approach addressing the evident inefficiencies in our health system is essential. The fiscal benefits will inevitably follow.

The CDP strongly opposes any increase to the GST as it will be detrimental to the everyday Australian people who struggle to maintain a decent standard of living for their families.

Simplifying Taxes And Abolishing Taxes That Stifle Growth

CDP supports the abolition of taxes that discourage positive economic contribution (e.g. payroll tax should be abolished as it penalizes employment initiatives).

CDP affirms that taxation incentives should reward productive forms of economic activity but opposes the availability of tax deductions to speculative schemes with little or no prospect of economic success. Simplification of Taxation legislation has become so complex and lengthy that it is unintelligible to many, including tax experts.

This complexity also means that over 70% of Australians must now use a tax accountant to prepare their annual tax return. Similarly, the compliance costs to businesses of both state and federal taxation legislation is an enormous burden to them and a distorter of the economy.

The CDP supports simplification of the taxation system and the exploration and adoption of international taxation systems that both reduce the number of tax payers required to submit tax returns, and reduce the compliance burden on businesses.

Introduction

Any increase in the GST will inevitably be detrimental to the many people and families whom are already struggling to cater for their household needs and costs.

Any proposal to broaden the GST to cover the items which are currently exempt, such as fresh food, is proof that the government has absolutely no concern or consideration towards the long-term health effects of such radical measures.

The government is currently confronting major challenges in the funding and delivery of health care and there are escalating problems arising with the decrease in the health workforce supply and distribution.

CDP believes that there must be an overall strategic reform of our tax system which includes personal and business tax cuts and a review of payroll and stamp duty. A holistic approach is essential which needs to also address the evident health system inefficiencies. The fiscal benefits will then inevitably follow.

The CDP strongly opposes any increase in the GST as it will be detrimental to everyday Australians who struggle to maintain a decent standard of living for their families.

Related Policies

Policy 11 - Taxation

13. Medicinal Cannabis

Introduction

The CDP will review the results of the current NSW Government trial into Medicinal Cannabis.

Alleviating pain for the terminally ill is a policy that CDP is committed to however we must also ensure that Medicinal Cannabis is strictly governed and made available for the right purposes where it is medically proven to assist with alleviating pain and no other purposes.

14. Freedom of Speech (S18C Racial Discrimination Act)

Introduction

The CDP stands for Free Speech. The current wording of S18C (see actual legislation below) includes the words 'offend' and 'insult'. We believe that this an overreach and can result in potential restrictions on Free Speech.

The CDP supports the principle of freedom of speech and expression when that expression does not incite or promote criminal activity as recognised under Australian federal or state law, or where it can be proven to be deceitful or based on false information.

The CDP also recognises that in some instances certain speech or expression may be considered offensive or insulting to some, however these emotional responses are subjective based on the personal opinions of those concerned and therefore should not be the foundation for any legislation to limit freedom of speech and expression.

As such the CDP supports the removal of the words 'offend' and 'insult' from section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975.

Extract from the Current Legislation

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ACT 1975 - SECT 18C

Offensive behaviour because of race, colour or national or ethnic origin

(1) It is unlawful for a person to do an act, otherwise than in private, if:

(a) the act is reasonably likely, in all the circumstances, to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate another person or a group of people; and

(b) the act is done because of the race, colour or national or ethnic origin of the other person or of some or all of the people in the group.

Note: Subsection (1) makes certain acts unlawful. Section 46P of the Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 allows people to make complaints to the Australian Human Rights Commission about unlawful acts. However, an unlawful act is not necessarily a criminal offence. Section 26 says that this Act does not make it an offence to do an act that is unlawful because of this Part, unless Part IV expressly says that the act is an offence.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), an act is taken not to be done in private if it:

(a) causes words, sounds, images or writing to be communicated to the public; or

(b) is done in a public place; or

(c) is done in the sight or hearing of people who are in a public place.

(3) In this section:

"public place" includes any place to which the public have access as of right or by invitation, whether express or implied and whether or not a charge is made for admission

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Policy 15. Environment and Climate Change

Environment

The CDP believes that environmental issues are important because the environment is God given and sustains life. Humans have an obligation to responsibly manage the environment and to mitigate, where feasible, environmental change and pollution. It needs to be remembered that the earth was made for humankind. The environment needs to be kept in perspective as the servant to humankind and not elevated to the point where human lives are sacrificed in favour of preserving the life of some plants or animals.

Climate Change

In the current debate, some scientists say that the earth is undergoing a phase of climate change that is dangerously outside its normal warming and cooling cycles. This climate change, they argue, is both highly undesirable now for its attributed catastrophes today like droughts and, relying on computer model forecasts, they point to future ongoing catastrophes for humankind if it continues.

They see this recent climate change as almost entirely due to humans' production of greenhouse gases, most notably increased atmospheric CO₂ levels caused principally by both the combustion of fossil fuels and the planet's reduced ability to absorb CO₂ as the result of clearing of forests.

However, they also argue these changes may possibly be reversed by humans undertaking dramatic steps immediately to reduce atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases. On the other hand, other equally reputable scientists argue that the current phase of climate change is nothing new and is not outside the normal range of climate change cycles that have been happening for many years. The earth has been in the past much warmer and much colder than it is today. These periods of warming and cooling are natural cycles for the earth and not man-made. For example, as recently as the 14th century the River Thames regularly froze during winter. Paintings and drawings made at that time show Londoners crossing the Thames by walking on the ice sheet. This period is referred by climatologists to as 'the little ice age'. Prior to this there was a period of balmy warming in Europe that contributed to medieval prosperity.

Crop yields in Germany and France were above average. Even grapes grew in northern parts of England. Additionally, climate change, they say, is not and never was driven by CO₂ levels. The present theory of CO₂ causing global warming does not match the observed facts associated with current global warming. Even if CO₂ is accepted as a driver of climate humans only produce a small digit percentage of the total CO₂ in the atmosphere which is an insignificant contribution to overall atmospheric CO₂. Therefore, there is little or nothing that can be done by humans that would be reliably predictable and of certain benefit to affect the current phase of climate change.

Moreover, it should not be automatically assumed that any and all climate change is undesirable. Many changes in the past have been desirable. There is no such thing as an unchanging ideal global climate. Finally, they argue that our ability to accurately forecast future weather conditions is very unreliable. Current forecast tools are simply not reliable

The Only Truly Conservative Alternative

Policy 15. Environment and Climate Change

enough. To attribute catastrophic present day and future weather events to climate change is scaremongering. Unfortunately much of the media's reporting on climate change has focused unduly on apocalyptic and alarmist predictions. Young children have been worried and frightened by media predictions of their futures filled with absolutely certain catastrophic weather events caused by mankind. Sceptical scientists who do challenge some of the climate change assumptions are much less frequently reported by the media than those supporters of climate change assumptions and dire forecasts.

The climate change debate itself is often characterised as 'being over' and 'virtually all scientists now agree that mankind is entirely to blame as the cause of the recently observed global warming'. Meanwhile many, both inside and outside the scientific community, ask 'when was there ever any debate in the popular media?'

The CDP:

1. Accepts that the scientific debate around climate change is unresolved, and in that sense the CDP remains agnostic in respect to scientific elements of the climate change debate.
2. Is not indifferent to the economic welfare of Australian families, farmers and businesses. CDP will not commit itself to any course of action that is certain to damage economic prosperity if the hoped-for benefits to the environment are uncertain or disproportionately costly.
3. Does not support carbon trading schemes as they are considered futile and create an unnecessary burden on our economy.
4. Does not support Australia being a signatory to International agreements that are not in our best interests.
5. Encourages the development of economic alternatives to fossil fuels and cleaner coal mining technologies.
6. Wants to see a more balanced approach to the debate and issues surrounding climate change in both school curriculum and the media.
7. Supports a forestry policy that balances sustainable environmental practices with the interests and long term viability of rural and regional forestry communities.
8. Supports the implementation of viable programs to deal with salt damage to agricultural land.

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Policy 16. Penalty Rates

The CDP rejects the notion put forward by the Productivity Commission, big business, and mainstream politicians stating that cutting workers' penalty rates would result in increased job opportunities and spur growth.

Attacking penalty rates will impact the most vulnerable in our workforce as any reduction or removal will disproportionately affect low-paid workers and their families, who would then need to work extra hours to receive the same income.

Furthermore, cutting penalty rates will have a detrimental impact on family time especially on Sunday which is a day of rest and worship for many. Those compelled to work on weekends should be compensated accordingly.

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

Policy 17. Pro-Life

Abortion

We affirm that human life begins at fertilisation, and therefore should be given legal protection throughout all stages of pregnancy. Abortion should be banned by any society that aspires to justice and compassion.

We oppose abortion, therefore at the Federal level we will seek to have Medicare funding of abortion withdrawn. At the State level, we will seek to amend/overturn the WA Acts Amendment (Abortion) Act 1998 that granted state sanction to abortion on demand. We oppose abortion in all circumstances except when a mother's life is threatened.

We are opposed to "safe sex" education programs such as those run by FPA WA. Instead, we will support programs in schools that teach abstinence prior to marriage, and fidelity within marriage.

We will support an advertising campaign to promote adoption as a positive alternative to abortion.

We will support pregnancy crisis counselling services that offer practical help and positive pro-life alternatives to pregnant women.

Infanticide

In the face of proposals stating that children with severe disabilities be either directly killed or denied lifesaving medical treatment, CDP observes that it should always be unlawful to kill any child by an act of commission or omission.

We oppose authoritarian laws imposed in some States that restrict the right to protest or pray outside of abortion clinics. Such laws are tyrannical in nature and not acceptable in a freedom loving nation like Australia. CDP will work and campaign to repeal such laws in all jurisdictions.

CDP is totally against Gender Selection abortions and believe that Medicare funds should not be available for such services.

Euthanasia

Euthanasia (regardless of method) is a deliberate act to end a patient's life. We oppose euthanasia, whether active (such as with an injection) or passive (such as by withdrawing food and water), whether voluntary (with the consent of the victim) or involuntary (without the consent of the victim). Euthanasia should not be confused with refusing futile or burdensome medical treatment when death is inevitable. Neither should euthanasia be confused with the provision of good palliative care. In some instances, medications that manage pain may hasten death, but this is not euthanasia for the aim is not to kill but to alleviate suffering. Rather than eliminating the frail, sick and elderly, we support quality palliative care.

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

18. Rural Issues & General Principles

Introduction

CDP believes that Australia must continue to have a competitive, sustainable and profitable rural sector since independent family farms are a vital part of the social and economic fabric of Australian society. However, the primary emphasis should be placed on the actual wellbeing of rural people and communities rather than on the 'paper performance' of a few rural industries.

Rural people and communities should reap an equitable share of the rewards of their production. Programs must be developed to help farmers and their families to stay on the land and earn sufficient income. State and Federal governments have a responsibility to ensure that rural people have access to government offices, banks, hospital, medical and other vital services. Where such services are not economically viable to private enterprise, the State and Federal governments have a duty to intervene in some fashion. The Government has a responsibility to provide taxation and regulatory incentives for decentralisation, creation of new enterprises and expansion of existing enterprises and businesses in rural areas.

CDP supports and will lobby for the retention or adoption of the following policies:

Drought policy

1. A good drought policy should have a long term strategy encouraging farmers to prepare better for future droughts. In this regard, CDP supports a) the introduction of 100% tax deductibility in the year of expenditure for primary producers investing in assets and infrastructure to enhance drought preparedness and b) the availability of other means-tested incentives (such as low interest loans, investment rebates and grants) to encourage farmers to implement drought preparedness strategies.
2. Currently, producers in a given area subject to a severe and rare event (drought, devastation) may apply for Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payments. However, an Exceptional Circumstances (EC) application takes far too long to be processed. Presently, regions seeking EC relief must first approach the State Government who, once convinced of the merits of the application, will refer the matter to the Australian Government Minister for Agriculture who then forwards the application to the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC). If the NRAC supports the application, the Minister for Agriculture must then seek approval from Cabinet before declaring that an area is experiencing EC. Furthermore, under the present guidelines, very few farmers can be eligible for EC relief as the individual eligibility criteria is very restrictive.

Therefore:

- The CDP supports a simplification of this highly bureaucratic and subjective assessment system and replace it with a more science-based, objective approach that automatically triggers EC relief within a region affected by drought.

Water entitlements

The separation of water entitlements from land titles may deprive some rural landholders from access to water resulting in a loss of land value and an inability to carry out an

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

agricultural or horticultural enterprise. Consequently, CDP supports permanent security of tenure over water entitlements and the adoption of a Torrens-based system in relation to water rights.

Climate variability research

CDP supports a refocusing on valid scientific drought prediction models by Federal and State Governments research centres.

Environmental practices

CDP supports environment management policies that will secure the retention of ongoing productive agricultural land and the implementation of viable programs to deal with salt damage to agricultural land.

Forestry Policy

CDP supports a forestry policy that protects the interests and long term viability of rural and regional forestry communities.

Global trade

CDP is concerned by the significant amount of government subsidies offered to US and European farmers. These subsidies distort the market and encourage both inefficiency and uncompetitive practices. In response to these global realities, CDP supports the introduction of a realistic trade barrier policy which will effectively protect our Australian domestic market from these uncompetitive policies

Single Trading Desk

CDP supports a 'single desk' arrangement for the export of Australian wheat as long as farmers remain protected from unscrupulous corporations. The 'single desk' should be a cooperative style entity owned by farmers. The 'single desk' needs to work for the benefit of the farmers only. The 'single desk' policy should allow farmers to share the benefits of a bargaining power they might not otherwise have.

Quarantine

CDP supports a review of Australia's quarantine policies. CDP supports a policy where the imported product is required to meet the same high quality production standards as those imposed on our local producers.

Live Trade

The live animal export is a significant industry as it employs a large number of workers. Consequently, CDP supports the continuation of the live animal export trade subject to improved humane treatment of animals during transport and pain minimization during slaughter. For those animals that are not going to be exported alive, CDP supports

the development of abattoirs that implement pain minimization techniques during the slaughtering process

Labelling issues

CDP supports government regulations requiring country of origin labelling. CDP supports strict penalties to protect the Australian wool and sheep industry from false labelling and inferior products.

Fuel

CDP supports a lower taxation regime on all fuels and the encourages the establishment of further LP Gas outlets in country and remote areas.

Policy 19. Water

The CDP believes that God created and requires mankind to use natural resources for mankind's benefit. Water is such a resource.

Therefore, the CDP:

- Does not support the Commonwealth taking control of water policy from the States. The Constitution of Australia does not allocate the control of dams and waterways to the Commonwealth. Whilst it is clearly sensible for NSW, Vic and SA to coordinate the use of the water they share, WA, Queensland and Tasmania should be left to manage their own water systems without interference from Canberra because their river systems are largely contained within their own state boundaries.

Urban Water

- The CDP supports tax deductibility for water saving devices used by households and businesses.
- The CDP Believes that water is a public good which should be provided at the cost of delivery. The CDP acknowledges that there may be situations when the only feasible supplier of an essential service is a monopoly public enterprise. In such circumstances the CDP believes that these enterprises should deliver their services or goods to families and businesses at cost and not with a profit focus.

Regrettably, recent years have seen large profits returned to state governments by their monopoly water trading corporations at the expense of the families and businesses who must buy their water from the public supplier. Additionally, the replacement, repair and maintenance of the public supply water system for all communities, including remote and isolated ones, has been neglected in favour of a focus on profit by government water supply corporations. This is far from the original purpose of these enterprises - to provide water to households and businesses at a cost price which includes a provision for replacement, repair and maintenance of the network.

Furthermore, the focus on profit undermines the justification for allowing these corporations to remain as the monopoly supplier of water to most households and businesses.

Rural Water

The CDP recognizes that different irrigation solutions will apply to different agricultural products and consequently farmers should be free to purchase the irrigation delivery system best suited to their particular enterprise. However, it is accepted that if some farmers are allowed to freely trade their secure water entitlements this may adversely impact other farming enterprises as certain irrigation areas becomes uneconomic. CDP believes that a just system of compensation needs to be devised to adjust for any collateral damage done in these circumstances.

The CDP is concerned about the distorting impact of some of the Managed Investment

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Schemes on agricultural production and water allocation. The taxation advantages enjoyed by Managed Investment Schemes can mean that they fail to respond to market pressures and oversupply a particular commodity using an over allocation of water.

Policy 20. Media, Internet & Censorship

Media Censorship, including television, films and the internet, play an increasingly influential role in the formation of public opinion and taste. Children, including teenagers, are especially vulnerable to media influence. Aggressive and pornographic media is now making inroads into mainstream advertising and merchandising.

Society has a moral duty to limit what can be conveyed by the media in order to protect children and the whole community from what is harmful, especially violent and pornographic content. Pornography demeans women and corrupts men. It contributes to the dissolution of families and devastates the lives of children who are exposed to it. There is no place for pornography in any medium. This is especially the case with hard-core pornography CDP believes that the X-rated classification for films should be abolished and Commonwealth legislation introduced to prohibit the production and sale of these films in the ACT and the Northern Territory.

CDP affirms that mandatory filtering at Internet service provider level should be introduced to exclude all material which would be classified X or refused classification. The scheme should also provide a family friendly internet service with no material that would be rated MA15+ or higher.

CDP supports increased police resources to Internet monitoring in order to detect child sex offenders. CDP considers that the classification scheme for films and computer games should be revised to ensure that there is a G classification which parents can completely rely on as indicating that the material is suitable for children of all ages CDP believes that the R18+ classification should exclude any depiction of actual sex or any implied depictions of sex with children.

The highest classification for computer games should remain as MA15+. CDP affirms that public broadcasters have an obligation to ensure balanced reporting on all issues and steps to enforce this requirement should be taken. All holders of television and radio licenses enjoy a privilege which carries responsibilities. As industry self-regulation is not working, CDP supports the introduction of a new scheme with greater enforcement powers. Reality television is just one genre where there has been flagrant abuse.

CDP believes that the standards for television and radio content should be rigorously enforced with significant penalties for breaches, including loss of license, imposed by the appropriate authority.

CDP affirms also that standards for television and radio should take account of the potential that exists to influence children, and therefore reflect and support the values of Australian families. CDP considers that the banning of tobacco advertising is an

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

Policy 20. Media, Internet & Censorship

illustration of the recognized impact of TV and radio content on children's values, beliefs and behaviour.

Policy 21. Child Abuse

- The CDP recognizes that child abuse can take a number of forms: children can be abused sexually but also physically and psychologically.
- The CDP encourages reporting of child abusers by anyone who has reasonable grounds for doing so, especially by people engaged in children's services such as health care, education, carers, refuge workers and police.
- The CDP believes that an effective child protection policy requires coordination at the national level.
- The CDP supports the concept of a national register of convicted offenders to facilitate monitoring by law enforcement authorities.
- The CDP supports more training should be given to people involved in children's services to facilitate the early detection of abuse.
- Concerning the consequences of long term child abuse, the CDP supports added training be made available to teachers and court officials to make them more aware of the high priority that should be accorded to prevention, prohibition, rehabilitation and victim compensation.
- The CDP acknowledges that much child abuse occurs in family types not structured on traditional marriage. CDP therefore supports programs that highlight the social utility of marriage between a man and a woman for life, and to the exclusion of all others.
- The CDP acknowledges that child abuse offenders are overrepresented in Aboriginal and other communities, and it is essential that policies recognizing the cultural sensitivities of these communities be implemented.
- The CDP believes that recommendations made by the Gordon Inquiry that have not yet been implemented should be acted upon.
- The CDP believes that sentences should reflect the severity and frequency of the perpetrated abuse.
- Where bilateral agreements allow, the CDP supports deporting child abusers who are not Australian citizens to serve their sentence in their country of origin.
- The CDP believes that more research should be carried out into the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs; government grants should also be available to organizations that provide services to child offenders' victims.
- The CDP does not accept that the use of reasonable physical discipline by parents or others acting on behalf of parents (e.g. school teachers) is a form of child abuse. CDP opposes any legislative proposal to criminalise reasonable use of discipline.

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

Policy 22. Face Coverings

The CDP acknowledges that due to security reasons there are times and in certain places there is a clear need for a person's face to be clearly recognisable for the purposes of identification.

Likewise, there are times when it may be necessary for the removal of a face covering at the request of law enforcement officers or security and/or general staff while on their premises or place of work.

However, at present this applies to various forms of face coverings ranging from motorcycle helmets to sunglasses yet in many situations a person wearing a burqa or other religious based face covering is exempted from such scrutiny.

The CDP finds this highly discriminatory and creates a potential safety risk to all Australian citizens. In fact, many Islamic nations themselves have banned such face coverings as they recognise the very same security risk.

Further, the CDP also recognises the fact that until identification can be confirmed there is at times no way to determine if the wearer is actually wearing such face coverings for religious reasons or alternatively purely as they know there is little chance of being asked to remove it.

As such the CDP calls for a ban on all face coverings of any type and in any place where bans on other forms of face covering are already being enforced. The only exception being safety related equipment and/or when medically required, and with appropriate evidence to show the cause is justified.

Policy 23 Australian Human Rights Commission

The CDP CALLS FOR AN END TO AHRC IDEOLOGICAL BIAS

The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) is Australia's independent national human rights institution that is charged with promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and with addressing discrimination.

CDP supports Human Rights and supports the original intentions of the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), however, we are deeply concerned about the AHRC's approach to LGBTI issues at school and their support of Homosexual Marriage.

The CDP fully supports all efforts to ensure that schools and all places of academic and other learning maintain an environment where all students feel safe, comfortable, and conducive to the learning and development of all who attend regardless of gender, age, colour or any other demographic.

We believe that all students should be free of any form of bullying and harassment, as well as being free to believe openly as they wish without pressure to conform to a particular opinion, social agenda, or other viewpoint, unless it is promoting actions prohibited under Australian federal or state law.

As such we appreciate the Human Rights Commissioner's concerns for the wellbeing and safety of LGBTI students, however we feel that this must be balanced against the emotional and other needs of all students with no favouritism or bias towards any individual or group.

One example of how the emotional needs of the majority are at risk of being sacrificed to satisfy one minority group is the recent calls by the Safe Schools Coalition promoting transsexual and intersex students be permitted to use either male or female toilets.

The CDP opposes such an action as it is equally important to protect those students who may not feel comfortable or safe in having students of the opposite gender sharing their amenities. This is a clear and evident case of one minority's alleged 'rights' taking precedence over the right of privacy and emotional security of the vast majority. This is particularly unjust and unnecessary when there is a simple option available, being private unisex toilets where the gender, or assumed gender, becomes irrelevant.

The CDP questions whether the Human Rights Commission is truly representing the students as a whole while remaining bipartisan on any political or social engineering agendas, or are they more ideologically driven.

This concern is further reinforced by recent comments by the Australian Human Rights Commission President, Gillian Triggs, who responded to the Australian Christian Lobby's suggestion of suspension or modification to the present anti-discrimination laws to allow free speech in reference to the same sex marriage plebiscite campaign as a "disgraceful way of dealing with the issue". Free speech is an essential element in any debate as this allows all the facts to be established openly for all involved to establish an informed viewpoint.

We believe examples such as this show a clear and evident bias towards one side of a political issue presently under debate and a willingness to favour those with whom they agree, over the rights of those of whom they do not.

The Only Truly Conservative Alternative

We, the CDP, feel that it is not the role of the Human Rights Commission to either support or condemn any viewpoint beyond its mandate of protecting genuine human rights, nor is it to show partiality towards any particular group.

Rather we believe that the rights of all people, including the youth of Australia, are to be protected. This includes the right to disagree with the opinions of another without fear of vilification or retribution and to be free of forced indoctrination of any political agenda, including education programs designed to promote acceptance of a behaviour pattern of which one group may disagree with.

Freedom of belief is also an essential element of any human rights campaign and worthy of protecting along with the right to disagree.

24. Religious Freedom

The Christian Democratic Party (CDP) recognises that the early settlers who came to Australia were Christian men and women and that the Commonwealth of Australia was established on Christian principles, as evidenced by the preamble of our Australian Constitution (“humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God”) and the symbolism of the four crosses on our Australian flag.

CDP believes that successive Federal, State and Local governments across Australia have a responsibility to uphold the Christian principles at the root of our national heritage.

CDP supports the retention of Christian prayers at the outset of each daily parliamentary session.

CDP believes that governments have a duty to allow the Church to continue to preach the Gospel unhindered.

Although religion is sometimes misused to channel violence or hatred in our communities, **CDP is opposed to laws that prevent or hinder anyone from living peaceably in accordance with his religious beliefs** (for instance, antidiscrimination laws should not be used to force a Christian into renting accommodation to a homosexual couple).

CDP supports the right of Christian schools to continue to teach Christian doctrine in their curriculum (for example Creation) and to freely choose the staff they wish to employ. CDP believes these important privileges are critical to retaining and protecting the Christian ethos upon which these schools were founded.

CDP supports Christian religious education in State schools whilst acknowledging the right of parents to opt out.

CDP believes that the adherents of other religions are entitled to freedom of worship and expression provided that they also accept that Christian beliefs and practices can continue to be upheld freely. Adherents of non-Christian religions should recognise that in case of conflict between their tradition and Christian traditions, the Christian practice prevails out of respect for Australia’s well established Christian heritage. For example, CDP supports the observance of Christmas and Easter by State schools and local governments.

CDP opposes any formal legal recognition of sharia law or aboriginal tribal law and supports one single body of laws for all Australians, irrespective of religion or ethnicity.

The *Only* Truly Conservative Alternative

A rental property is negatively geared if it is purchased with the assistance of borrowed funds and the net rental income, after deducting other expenses, is less than the interest on the borrowings.

The overall taxation result of a negatively geared property is that a net rental loss arises. In this case, an investor is able to claim a deduction for the full amount of rental expenses against rental and other income (salary, wages or business income) when they complete a tax return for the relevant income year. Where the other income is not sufficient to absorb the loss, it is carried forward to the next tax year.

Thousands of Australian tax payers from various socio-economic backgrounds have utilised the benefits of negative gearing to purchase one or more investment properties.

It is estimated that 80% of Landlords claiming deductions had an income of less than \$150,000 for the financial year ending 30 June 2013.

CDP is concerned about the lack of clarity surrounding the debate to changes targeting negative gearing of investment properties. The arguments put forward by both the major parties are vague and there could be serious consequences especially since there are early signs that the Australian property market is cooling off.

Our biggest concern is that restricting negative gearing could lead to higher rent for tenants as well as cause a sharp decrease in property values which will impact the wealth and retirement plans of hundreds of thousands of Australians.

CDP believes that there are other options to improve housing affordability such as applying restrictions on foreign ownership.

The CDP supports the current negative gearing scheme.