

# CDP 2019 Federal Senate Campaign Policies

## 1. Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence against adults and children is one of the most serious issues we face as a community and has been described as a global public health problem of epidemic proportions, requiring urgent action. In Australia, on average at least one in every four woman is badly injured or killed every week at the hands of a current or former partner. The *CDP* support all and any Initiative to review and update its Domestic and Family Violence Policies. We will support our communities to provide front line services such as safe and accessible housing for men, women and children affected by domestic violence. We will lobby for government agencies and support organisations to be involved in building clear and precise policies and instruction in immediate post- incidence responses including trauma, housing, medical and following through with legal assistant. We support all initiatives that educate society on early detection with easy and clear advertising and promotions to help support the victims from such things like anger management, drug abuse and alcoholism which are a large source of domestic violence.

## 2. Zero Tolerance for Child Pornography

The *CDP* ardently opposes and has zero tolerance to Child Pornography and will fervently lobby against anything to do with child pornography and child sexual assault. We will be lobbying on sentencing raised in relation to child pornography offences and child sexual abuse offenders, notably the inadequacy of penalties imposed on offenders. Maximum penalties are amongst the issues to be considered in Australian sentencing Council's and a review of sexual offences. The statistics indicate that those who commit child pornography offences are overwhelmingly male and the majority of offenders plead guilty. A significant number of child pornography offenders are sentenced in a Local Court, in which case the **maximum** penalty is lower than if a matter is heard in a District Court. Statistics indicate that the average length of imprisonment for NSW child pornography offences is **12 months**. The *CDP* will lobby for an increase to much harsher penalties to anyone involved in Child pornography and child sexual assault cases. CDP will support various Child Abuse support programs such as Bravehearts.

### **3. Remove all “Safe School” Transgender (Fluid Gender) Programs from all Australian Schools**

The *CDP* will lobby to have the dangerous ‘Safe Schools’ program removed completely from all schools around the nation, whether Public or Private institutions. This so-called ‘Safe Schools’ program is not protecting children from bullying. It is child abuse disguised as an ‘anti-bullying’ program. This program aims to indoctrinate and confuse our young, innocent and vulnerable students during their adolescent years. The *CDP* are deeply concerned about the proliferation of such programs which are ideologically driven with the aim of recruiting vulnerable children. The *CDP* was successful in convincing the NSW Government to withdraw ‘Safe Schools’ funding and will continue to oppose all these damaging programs that are not medically or scientifically sound or endorsed.

### **4. Support Chaplains and Scripture classes (SRE) in all State Schools**

The *CDP* supports scripture classes and chaplaincy in all State Schools in NSW to uphold Judeo-Christian values, as a preference to secular ethic classes. Presently school scripture classes are coming under unprecedented attack and the call for Chaplains are rapidly decreasing around Australia.

**Support Statement:** Due to *CDP* advocacy and lobbying to the Government, scripture class attendance has increased.

### **5. Defend our Constitutional Monarchy**

Elizabeth II is the permanent protector of our Constitution. By her very existence the Queen and her successors ensure that our democracy, embedded in the Constitution, remains inviolate. Over-ambitious and overriding politicians cannot change this fact and thus Elizabeth II (and her heirs and successors) remains our ultimate safeguard. Each one of us may choose our own friends, our political party or our religion, and we can be loyal to each of those groups. As Australians we may have many different hopes and interests and look for leadership and guidance in many places, yet we all have the one Queen and the loyalty pledged to her is a higher loyalty than our sectional hopes and ambitions. It is a loyalty to the purposes and ideals of the whole Australian nation without preference to any section of society. We are all Australian citizens with one allegiance to the Crown. – Australian Monarchist League

### **6. One Law for all Australians - No Sharia Law - No Sharia Courts**

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.

## **7. Freedom of Speech**

The **CDP** 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.

**Support Statement:** As such the **CDP** supports the removal of the words ‘offend’ and ‘insult’ from section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975. We believe that this is overreach and can result in potential restrictions on Free Speech.

## **8. Freedom of Religion**

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 will lobby to pass the Religious Freedoms Act.**

**Support Statement: 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.

**CDP is opposed to laws that prevent or hinder anyone from living peaceably in accordance with his religious beliefs** (for instance, anti-discrimination 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.**

## **9. Pro-Life - No Abortion - No Euthanasia**

**Abortion:** We affirm that human life begins at fertilisation, and therefore should be given legal protection throughout all stages of pregnancy, including up to birth.

**Support Statement:** Abortion should be banned by any society that aspires to justice and compassion. Only with the mother at risk of death should abortion be considered.

**CDP** supports promoting Adoption programs as the right alternative for unwanted pregnancies and to lovingly support woman in these situations.

**CDP** is opposed to **INFANTICIDE** as it is unlawful to kill any child by an act of commission or omission.

**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).

**Support Statement:** 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.

### **10. Support Traditional Marriage**

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.

**Support Statement:** 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.

### **11. Environment: YES to limited Coal Fired Power Stations and/ NO to Fracking of Coal Seam Gas/ Yes to Nuclear Power**

Human survival globally is dependent upon the natural world. We are called to be stewards (custodians) of the environment, ensuring the right balance is struck between the good and sustainable use of the earth. This means **CDP** supports sustainable use of the environment, proper conservation and to ensure biodiversity. Our living world is the environment in which we live, and we must live with the consequences of how we manage it. Economic paradigm of maximising exploitation of the natural resources must

be balanced with a caretaking and sustainability paradigm. *CDP* opposes Coal Seam Gas fracking in all agricultural area, forests and water catchments in NSW. *CDP* calls for an immediate moratorium of CSG and any mining process that involves fracking as CDP did in 2015. Our country stands on the brink of being irrevocably damaged by the impact of CSG, with 50% of the landmass of Australia under current exploration license for unconventional mining. Already in affected areas within Australia, rivers are irreparably poisoned, air is toxic and people are sick.

**Nuclear Power** is the only proven generation technology offering solutions on all three fronts of the energy trilemma: security and reliability, affordability, and environmental sustainability for Australia's National Electricity Market. Today over 447 operable nuclear reactors totalling almost six times Australia's total generating capacity supply 10.6% of the world's electricity in 30 countries.

## **12. Affordable Housing**

*CDP* encourages the Government to release further prime Government land to build affordable housing and to also provide cheaper rent to meet the rising demand of younger upcoming generations.

## **13. Increase Pension payments to meet cost of living**

The *CDP* will lobby and give our full support to increase Pension payments across the board to meet the cost of living today. We want to see society's most vulnerable - being our aged pensioners who have worked all their lives, the sick and disabled and single parents looked after so they may live their lives happily with pride and dignity.

## **14. Increase Nurses in Public Hospitals**

Compared to other developed health systems, Australia is facing a major challenge in achieving a sustained health workforce that will meet the rapidly rising demand for health care. An ageing population is creating a demand by living a longer life span with more complex problems, combined with rising costs of technology and treatment and increasing consumer expectations. Reports confirm that population health trends, combined with an aging nursing workforce and poor retention rates, will lead to an imminent nursing shortage. Health Workforce Australia (HWA) has been tasked by Health Ministers to identify innovations and reforms with potential for national application to address the predicted shortfall.

## **15. Increase intake of Christian 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, India, Asia, Syria, Iraq and elsewhere.

**Support Statement:** *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.

## **16. The Government to conduct a Scientific Enquiry into the impact of Climate Change**

*CDP* supports valid scientific research into the impact of climate change.

## **17. Increase Police Numbers and Salaries**

Police increase required in crime prevention example - domestic violence. To bring police salaries in line with community expectations due to increased responsibilities.

**Support statement:** The *CDP* 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.

## **18. Increase drought relief for farmers**

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.

**Support Statement:** State and Federal governments have a responsibility to ensure that rural people have access to government offices, banks, hospital, medical and other vital services.

**Drought Policy:** 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. *CDP* supports the consideration of desalination infrastructure to be made available to farmers. *CDP* also supports further building of dams in NSW.

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