



*matters that count*

# Action on Climate Change

Our planet is in danger. Industrialisation has increased temperatures, causing environmentally catastrophic events, longer droughts, more intense heatwaves, more bushfires and floods, the extinction of more and more of our fauna and flora. The health and well-being of our children and grandchildren are now at serious risk.

Over the past 15 years, our nation's political leaders have been slow and timid in reducing carbon emissions and have failed to develop a national transition plan. Playing short-term political games in the face of this grave threat is unconscionable. The economic and social costs are huge and far outweigh the costs of transitioning away from fossil fuels.

Time is short. Our national government must legislate to reach a target of zero emissions by 2050, with reduced emissions of more than 50% by 2030.

We need a comprehensive national transition plan.

It must embrace: **decent support packages** (income, training, education, and health services) for working people in regional Australian communities moving away from coal; **transport planning** (public and private, people and freight); **food production** (domestic and exported); **design and planning of our built environments** (waterways, oceans, forests).

***The pathway we choose now will either put us on track for a much brighter future for our children, or lock in escalating risks of dangerous climate change.***

***The decision is ours to make.***

***Failure is not an option.***

—  
**Dr Will Steffen, Climate Council**  
THE CONVERSATION 15 APRIL 2021



**ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION  
CREATES 3.7X  
AS MANY JOBS AS  
OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION**

\* Jaeger, S. Burrow, et al., 2021. "The Green Jobs Advantage: How Climate Friendly Investments are Better Job Creators." Working Paper. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.

## MY COMMITMENT

**If elected I will actively seek all opportunities and means to press for:**

- **A legislated target of net zero emissions by 2050, and a target of reduced emissions by more than 50% by 2030.**
- **A national leadership summit of stakeholders including business, unions, and community sectors. It should be held in late 2022. It then informs, within the following year, the development of a comprehensive national transition plan.**

**Signed:**

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# A First Nations Voice Enshrined in the Constitution

Last year marked the 30th anniversary of the final report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. Since then, there have been at least 470 further deaths in custody.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples must have a say in the laws and policies that impact their lives.

We can ignore the past—or find our nation's soul. The fact that there has been relative inaction following the Royal Commission underlines the urgency of finding ways to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a greater say in the laws of the national parliament, its policies and Australian government decisions.

There is a path before us as reflected in *The Uluru Statement from the Heart*, created in May 2017. Australia's First Nations People's need to be recognised in our nation's constitution and their Voice to Parliament enshrined.

We should accept no less.

***Every shape and form of murder, yes, mass murder, was used against us and laws were passed and still exist, which no human creature can endure. Our foodstuffs have been destroyed, poison and guns have done their work, and now white men's homes have been built on our hunting and camping grounds. Our lives have been wrecked and our happiness ended.***

—  
**William Cooper, Yorta Yorta activist, 1938**  
QUOTED IN MARK MCKENNA, QUARTERLY ESSAY 69,  
MOMENT OF TRUTH, P.4

***...the Uluru Statement provides a way forward on some of the seemingly unresolvable issues facing Australia. It provides a structure within which we can bring to light the hidden histories and assumptions that continue to hold us back, and to embark on a journey of healing for the nation and the Land that sustains us.***

—  
**Pat Anderson AO**  
LOWITJA O'DONOGHUE ORATION, 1 JUNE 2021

**FIRST NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE STRUCTURES ARE COMMON IN COUNTRIES WITH MINORITY INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS. COMPARABLE DEMOCRACIES SUCH AS NEW ZEALAND, CANADA, FINLAND, SWEDEN AND NORWAY ALL HAVE FIRST NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE STRUCTURES.**

"A First Nations Voice in the Constitution: Design Issues", Report to the Referendum Council, Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership, June 2017

## MY COMMITMENT

**If elected I will actively seek all opportunities and means to press for:**

- A referendum to establish a First Nations Voice to Parliament, to be held within the first two years of the parliamentary term.

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## Wage Justice for Women

Economies are not objective realities and budgets are not gender neutral.

Our economy, labour market and political institutions reflect a masculine political culture which privileges the work of men and marginalises women's work, paid and unpaid. This is why Australian women, currently ranked equal first in the world for educational attainment, are ranked 70th in terms of economic participation.

This inequity was exposed during the current pandemic. Apart from bearing the brunt of domestic labour and responsibilities, women were also working hard in childcare and aged care for a lowly hourly rate of approximately \$23.00.

Women make up the majority of childcare and early years educators and aged care workers. They are among the lowest paid groups in Australia. Their work is vital and more physically and mentally demanding than most other work. It took a pandemic to highlight the point.

The low rates of pay and superannuation for these occupations compounds throughout a woman's lifetime, rendering many older women to the risk of homelessness.

Enough is enough of this continued wage injustice. Now is the time to boost the income of people working in these 'caring professions.' It will create jobs; improve early years' outcomes for children; improve living standards for older Australians; and improve women's long-term economic security.

Indeed, all Australians will benefit.

*The simple truth is that ... what economists call the 'institutional arrangements' that make up the economy have been designed by men, for the convenience of men ... the blokishness of the way we've always managed the economy is so deeply ingrained ... that so many men can't see it... Would it surprise you that caring jobs are done mainly by women and tend to be low-status and low paid?*

—  
Ross Gittins  
SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 21 OCTOBER 2020



### THE NATIONAL AVERAGE HOURLY RATE FOR:

- **Administrative assistant** \$34.67
- **Call centre officer** \$30
- **Bunnings Warehouse: casual** \$30
- **Garbage collector** \$29.49
- **School crossing supervisor** \$28
- **Domestic cleaner** \$27.15
- **Aged care worker** \$23.68
- **Childcare/daycare worker** \$23.54

\* Fair Work Ombudsman, January 2022

### MY COMMITMENT

**If elected I will actively seek all opportunities and means to press for:**

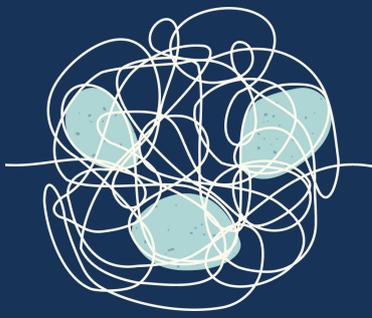
- **Government to lead cases to the Fair Work Commission for significant increases in award wages for a) aged care employees; and b) early childhood educators and carers, which better reflects and recognises their work value, delivers high quality and safe care, and helps attract and retain sufficient staff with the appropriate skills to both sectors.**

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# Stop Men's Violence

Our Australian society that produces men who would never dream of hurting or maiming the women and children in their lives is the same Australian society that produces other men who control, abuse and kill the women and children they say they love.

Our patriarchal culture normalises this violence, turning a blind eye to this hard truth. Overwhelmingly it is men who commit domestic assaults, domestic murders and workplace harassment. Conveniently, the focus steers away from male perpetrators and onto their victims: awkward truth averted. We then see another national plan for women's safety without any real force for change.

We need to grapple head on with the violent and abusive male behaviours nourished and subtly sanctioned within our communities.

Naming and challenging it is the best place to start. More men must lead and drive the change-gutsy policy at a national level; commitments from our national parliament and financial investment in our national budget; and major investments in educational and policing programs to hold violent and abusive men accountable which, ultimately, will change their behaviour.

We need more money for women's refuges and more money for services and support that enhance the safety of women and children.

**IN 2020, 37% OF ALL HOMICIDES WERE DUE TO FAMILY VIOLENCE**

\* [www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/recorded-crime-victims/latest-release](http://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/recorded-crime-victims/latest-release)

*It is men who predominantly do the hitting, abusing and killing. It is men's fault that harm is caused to those that are abused, not the victims.*

—  
Ken Lay, Chief Police Commissioner Victoria 2011-2015  
VIC POLICE NEWS, 2014



## MY COMMITMENT

**If elected I will actively seek all opportunities and means to press for:**

- Government investment boosted to \$150 million per annum over the next four years from its inadequate current level of \$9 million, to support and extend the suite of men's behaviour change programs across the country, accessible by all men no matter if they live in cities, country towns, or remote regions.
- Federal endorsement of Victoria Police's family violence portal, ensuring that incident reports, services and data are integrated and reliably linked back to the state's policing body. This has seen a reduction in high-severity family violence by ensuring high-level offenders are made visible.
- The Commonwealth to double its \$600 million funding commitment for the period 2021/22 - 2024/25, to support women escaping violence, deliver frontline services, support diverse communities, and respond to emerging issues.

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# Affordable Childcare for all Families

Our early childhood education and care system, funded and regulated by the Commonwealth (and preschool education by the States and Territories), is fragmented, expensive and unwieldy. It fails to offer the full suite of culturally appropriate settings including long-day and sessional care, centre-based, and/or family-based models.

Fees are rising twice as fast as inflation, preschool enrolment rates are falling, and there is inconsistent quality across early childhood services. The workforce is underpaid and under-valued, and skill shortages are impacting the quality of service provision.

Everyone benefits from an excellent, affordable childcare system.

Parents, especially women, benefit by being able to do more days of paid work and grow household income and spending; employers benefit with skilled workers returning to work and working more hours; and children benefit by participating in best-practice learning which better prepares them for school.

A high quality, universal early childhood system is an imperative for a modern Australian economy. Other countries are way ahead, showing it is more than possible.

**CHILDCARE COSTS ABSORB 18% OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR AN AVERAGE-EARNING AUSTRALIAN COUPLE WITH TWO YOUNG CHILDREN THE OECD AVERAGE IN 2019 WAS 10%**

\* Grattan Institute, March 2021

*...the current funding system means too many Australian families struggle to access or afford the quality early childhood education and care their children deserve, while too many early childhood educators aren't paid the wages they deserve.*

—  
**Georgie Dent**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE PARENTHOOD, DEC 2020

## MY COMMITMENT

**If elected I will actively seek all opportunities and means to press for childcare reform including:**

- The re-design of Australia's child-care care system from the current, failed business model to one providing universal, high-quality and affordable early childhood learning and care.

**This reform would strive to meet the practical needs of all women, including shift workers, rural and regional women, recent arrivals and those experiencing significant economic hardship. It would involve a suite of settings, including**

- Home-based family day care
- Centre-based care
- Early years / preschool programs
- Out of school hours and school holiday programs
- Government to lead the case to the Fair Work Commission for significant increases in award wages for early childhood educators and carers, better reflecting and recognising their work value, delivering high quality care and education, and helping attract and retain sufficient skilled staff.

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# Affordable Housing for Older Women

It is a shocking indictment of our approach to national housing policy that women aged 45 and over are now the fastest-growing cohort of Australians who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness.

These are women who work, or have worked, in insecure, casual jobs and who have little superannuation, other savings or assets. They have likely spent many years performing unpaid domestic labour, and in caring for their families; and they may have experienced separation, divorce, or family violence.

They are likely to be living in precarious private rental accommodation, paying more than 30% of their income in rent. Job loss, reduction in work hours, illness or accident which prevents them from working can tip them quickly into homelessness.

Australia must deliver thousands of social housing dwellings by investing at least \$15 billion of federal funds over the life of the next parliament. But it is equally clear there are many older women who do not meet strict social housing income and asset eligibility criteria, but who now live in costly, poorly located, or unsafe housing. We need federal housing support for these women too—enabling them to secure affordable housing and put a roof over their heads.

Apart from affordable rental housing, we need home ownership schemes for older women so they can buy well-located, structurally-sound dwellings of their own, without having to draw down their limited superannuation or savings.

***The time for raising awareness about older women's homelessness is over. It's time to act. There are over 300,000 (44 per cent) of single women over 45 on low-medium incomes who do not own their own homes and are renting.***

Fiona York, Executive Officer, Housing for the Aged Action Group  
SEPTEMBER 2021

**THE NUMBER OF OLDER WOMEN AGED 45+ FACING HOMELESSNESS INCREASED BY 31% FROM 2011 TO 2016**

\* Faulkner, D. and Lester, L, 2020, Understanding the population size and demographics of older women at risk of homelessness in Australia, Centre for Housing, Urban and Regional Planning, The University of Adelaide

## MY COMMITMENT

**If elected I will actively seek all opportunities and means to press for the immediate development and funding of an affordable housing strategy for older women that:**

- Invests at least \$15 billion over the next three years to provide a suite of home ownership programs, including shared-equity, rent-to-buy, and no or low-deposit Government-guaranteed home finance for older women.
- Leverages the existing supply of one- and two-bedroom apartments that are well-designed, easy to maintain, and located close to public transport, shops, and community amenities.

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# Ending the Cruel Treatment of Asylum Seekers

The indefinite detention offshore and onshore of people who have committed no crime is a breach of their human rights.

While Australia has ended offshore processing in Papua New Guinea, it has abandoned the 124 asylum seekers still on Manus Island.

These people face a return to uncertainty in their countries of origin, perhaps torture and death, or transfer to Nauru indefinitely.

This cruelty is repeated here, on our own shores. Men removed for medical reasons from Manus Island and Nauru are locked up for years in poor quality hotel accommodation in Melbourne and Brisbane.

While many have been granted refugee status, they are detained indefinitely without explanation, some for up to nine years.

Proper enforcement of our immigration laws can be carried out without demonising people, exacerbating their suffering, and causing them physical and psychological harm.

These men, along with others seeking asylum, should be permitted to live in our communities while their applications for refugee status or other visas are processed.

They should be allowed to work, attend learning centres, and have access to medical and social support.

*The privatised mandatory detention system we have created here and offshore is cruel, oppressive, costly, capricious and unfair, endemically politicised, and unnecessary. Many innocent people are rotting from the inside out, and in the very heart of our cities.*

—  
Craig Foster AM, Former Soccerroo and broadcaster  
HERALD SUN, 13 JAN 2022

**THE COST TO HOLD A SINGLE PERSON OFFSHORE ON NAURU IS NOW BELIEVED TO BE A\$4.3 MILLION EACH YEAR**

\* Madeleine Gleeson, Kaldor Centre UNSW The Conversation 9 Dec 2021

## MY COMMITMENT

**If elected I will actively seek all opportunities and means to press for:**

- Asylum seekers to live in the community on the Australian mainland on humanitarian visas that allow access to health, employment and income support services.
- The immediate cessation of offshore detention and onshore detention in hotels.
- timeframes of maximum 30 days for adults and 72 hours for children for authorities to complete health and security checks on people seeking asylum - for the purposes of onshore detention only.

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# Integrity and Accountability

It is crucial to our democratic health that our elected representatives and public officials act with integrity, transparency, and accountability.

People's faith and trust is breached in the face of wide-scale misuse and roting of taxpayer monies, pork barrelling, and behaviour by politicians and public officials that advantages themselves, their families, friends, and donors.

More than ever Australia needs a strong and effective Federal anti-corruption commission with broad powers to identify, prevent and investigate corruption across all Commonwealth entities: public servants in all departments and agencies; ministers, MPs, and staffers.

We also need to strengthen the existing regulatory approach to enforce real-time transparency of donations; cap donation amounts to \$1000; and truth-in-advertising legislation enforceable with sanctions.

Our systems of government and public administration would be boosted considerably were we to explore, as a democratic society, the prospect of a total ban on donations and full public funding of elections.

**ANALYSIS FROM THE CENTRE FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY SHOWS THAT 10 DONORS ALONE WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALMOST A QUARTER OF ALL DONATIONS TOTALLING \$17.9 MILLION**

\* "Dark money and receipts", Hannah Ryan, The Saturday Paper, February 5-11, 2022

*Our community is sick and tired of politicians engaging in favour for favour; returning benefits and access to large donors; giving contracts to friends and allies; and using taxpayers' monies as if they were their own; it has had enough of the evasions and secretive responses of this government. ... The community is longing for integrity and most want a strong national integrity commission.*

The Hon. Stephen Charles AO QC  
THE CENTRE FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY



## MY COMMITMENT

**If elected I will actively seek all opportunities and means to press for:**

- **A strong and effective anti-corruption commission with broad powers to identify, prevent and investigate corruption across all Commonwealth entities: public servants in departments and agencies, ministers, MPs, and staffers.**
- **Stronger regulation of political donations, including real-time disclosure of donations over \$1000, and truth-in-advertising legislation enforceable by sanctions.**
- **A review into the prospect of full public funding of elections and the total ban of political donations**

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