



A FAIR DEAL FOR ALL

Voting for our values

NSW State Election 2023

Your voice strengthens our voice

A joint project of Social Justice,
Welfare and Educational Agencies



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Thrust with the responsibility to fulfill civic duty, we – as a society – are called to decide who will form and assume state power in the upcoming electorate term. As we prepare for the State Election, we call to mind the values, which we hope will guide us at this time – human dignity, the common good, ecological responsibility, and especially, solidarity with, and justice for those who have been marginalised.

This upcoming election could not have been called at a more crucial time as we emerge from the unjust smog left behind by the pandemic and navigate the cost-of-living crisis continuing to impede on our daily lives. The unanimous disruption made to health and education structures, transportation systems, the housing market, private sectors, and the environment, has revealed the gaps in state infrastructure and called for an immediate shift in state policy rhetoric.

In the Christian gospel, Jesus calls us to engage the society in which we live and to do what we can to transform it in line with the values of the Kingdom which He proclaimed by his life.

Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constituent dimension of the preaching of the gospel.

Justice in the World, Synod of Bishops, 1971 (6)

For Christians the work of social transformation is not an optional extra. It stems from God's own passion for the marginalised and suffering.

Part of the teaching and most ancient practice of the Church is the conviction that she is obliged...she herself, her ministers and each of her members, to relieve the misery of the suffering, both far and near, not only out of her abundance but also out of her necessities.

On Social Concern, Pope John Paul 11, 1988

An issue of justice which is critical today is that of the care of the very earth on which we live.

Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of us, and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth. The earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone."

Pope Francis Laudato Si'

The world of which we are part asks each person to re-view seriously the way in which we prepare for a State Election. Today, all people of good will yearn for the values of justice, equality and human decency within leadership. We want to leave a legacy of a just, peaceful and sustainable world for future generations. Amidst a backdrop of mounting anticipation where justice is hung in the balance, we will approach the polls with value-directed courage and vote for social inclusion, equitable resource allocation, and empowered community development.

At this time of an election then, we are invited to ask ourselves:

1. **Who are the people about whom Jesus would be most concerned at this time?**
2. **How do we show respect and care for our planet earth and for the whole of creation?**
3. **Which Candidates/Parties would be most likely to work for structures and policies which support these values and a more sustainable way of living on the earth?**

State election results determine the trajectory of our local contexts and subsequently mechanise the cogs and gears of our daily lives. So, we hope that this Kit will not only inform your vote but be used to hold elected officials accountable to their campaigning Speech Act.



*“Our lives begin to end
the day we become silent
about things that matter.”*

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



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ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

Everyone is entitled to the enjoyment of human rights without discrimination of any kind, (including on the basis of race).

The Constitution of a democratic nation enshrines and safeguards the rights and dignity of its 'First Nations Peoples', and collaboration between Government and Indigenous people is essential to achieving this.

As the 'first peoples' of Australia, first Nations Australians hold a unique status in this land, which is not constitutionally acknowledged.

Genuine equality for First Nations peoples, as a basic human right, requires an acknowledgement of their unique identity and cultural heritage, and an active recognition of cultural differences.

[The Uluru Statement from the Heart](#) invites all Australians to participate in a process of peace and reconciliation, where we can speak the truth of our history, seek justice, and find healing for all.

Constitutional recognition, as an official and undisputed right, offers the way forward to providing real authority to First Nations people.

Just relationships are created when we listen, learn and walk together.

Genuine relationships and reconciliation require truthful acknowledgment of past history.

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

Over a century ago our Constitution was drafted in the spirit of terra nullius. Land was divided, power shared, structures established, on the illusion of vacant land. This injustice has never been rectified.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart in its message to all Australians, asks for Constitutional recognition and the right for First Nations people to be consulted about issues affecting their lives and culture. The call is for a **Voice to Parliament** not a **Voice within Parliament**.

[Misinformation in the media](#) includes fabrications that the Voice would act as a veto or a third chamber of parliament. **It is advisory only, not a third chamber.**

Since the beginning of 2023 particularly, a "[confected culture war](#)" has escalated, as [misinformation has spread rapidly on social media](#).

Unbalanced media reporting reinforces the stereotyping and negative images of the Uluru Statement, with very little comment on the way that the Statement was developed, nor of the strength of the leadership of First Nations people.

Currently, First Nations communities, both remote and urban, experience [heightened levels of disadvantage](#), lower life expectancy and worse health, education, incarceration and employment outcomes than other Australians.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

Misinformation and political game-playing are leading to uncertainty among Australian communities. This uncertainty is being politicised for electoral advantage and has gained traction, both creating confusion and provoking division.

Although [80% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#) favour the Voice, [support has slipped among the general population](#), from 56% to 47%.

Imbalance in media reporting has helped to ignite underlying racism, (including institutionalised racism), which still exists in our nation.

[First Nations people continue to experience lower socio-economic outcomes](#) than other Australians, as well as significant levels of disadvantage across all social areas.

Indigenous Australians are subjected to ongoing [mandatory sentencing](#), imprisonment for fine defaults, "paperless" arrest laws, tough bail and parole conditions and punitive sentencing regimes. All of these contribute to [high incarceration rates not experienced by the general population](#). Along with funding cuts to frontline legal services and inadequate resourcing for much needed programs, these realities indicate the damage suffered by First Nations people over many years.

Constitutional recognition is seen by First Nations people as "[the first step in enabling us to fix things](#)." (Pat Dodson).

WHAT CAN WE DO POLITICALLY?

WE CAN REMIND CANDIDATES:

That in a show of unity, the prime minister and state and territory premiers have officially backed an Indigenous voice to parliament.

That the Uluru Statement is about Constitutional recognition of First Nations people as the original custodians of this land, and about consultation in matters related to them: no more and no less.

WE CAN LOBBY CANDIDATES:

To engage in a bi-partisan, formal collaboration with First Nations peoples on matters affecting their social, cultural and economic interests, as well as their political status within the nation

To convince sympathetic politicians that substantive constitutional change and structural reform, can enable this ancient sovereignty to shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood

To advance consultation and decisions related to Constitutional Change and Treaty to empower First Nations people to take a rightful place in their own country – where they have the power of their own destiny and their children can flourish. (Uluru Statement)

To put in place the implications of the voice, and negotiate for effective long-term strategies to eliminate disadvantage, ensuring the provision of adequate, recurrent funding without unfair conditions

To ensure that all legislation, policies and programs are consistent with international human rights standards and that accountability procedures are in place.

WHAT CAN WE DO PERSONALLY?

Inform ourselves about the issues pertaining to ongoing discrimination and racism around Constitutional Change, Truth and Treaty.

Invite representatives from the First Nations community to lead a discussion about issues related to Constitutional change

Engage with family and friends in conversations regarding the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Promote a more balanced approach in reporting (to eliminate discriminatory coverage and encourage greater objectivity)

Argue for Diversionary/culturally appropriate programs that help divert young people from entering, or re-entering the juvenile justice system. This requires adequate funding, guaranteed for the long term and subject to independent review.

Develop a bipartisan and community approach to innovative juvenile justice.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Uluru Statement from the Heart](#)
Justreinvest.org.au
www.hreoc.gov.au
www.antar.org.au
www.oxfam.org.au
www.acsjc.org.au
www.erc.org.au

*We have our heroes.
Albert Namatjira painted the
soul of this nation.
Vincent Lingiari
put out his hand for Gough
Whitlam to pour the sand of his
country and say,
'this is my country.'
Cathy Freeman lit the torch
of the Olympic games.*

*But every time we are lured
into the light,
we are mugged by the darkness
of this country's history.
**Of course, racism is killing
the Australian Dream.***

*It is self evident that it's killing
the Australian dream.
But we are better than that.*

*The people who stood up and
supported Adam Goodes and
said, 'no more;'
they are better than that.
The people who marched
across the bridge for
reconciliation;
they are better than that.
My wife who is not Indigenous
is better than that.*

*And one day, I want to stand
here and be able to say as
proudly
and sing as loudly
as anyone else in this room,
Australians **all**, let us rejoice.*

Stan Grant

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JUVENILE IMPRISONMENT RATES

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

Everyone is entitled to the enjoyment of **human rights** without discrimination of any kind, including on the basis of race.

Imprisonment of children violates their human rights under the [Convention of the Rights of the Child](#).

Genuine equality for first Nations citizens, as a basic human right, requires an **acknowledgement of their unique identity** and cultural heritage, and an active recognition of cultural differences.

The principles of **prevention, early intervention and social inclusion** are fundamental to decision-making and service delivery.

Effective policy minimises the alienation and marginalisation of people.

*We need to be clear,
when they talk about
'tough on crime'
they mean*

'tough on Aboriginal people'.

*Vickie Roach, Yuin Nation, Women's
prison rights advocate*

*We cannot flee persecution
to another country because we
are spiritually connected to our
own ancestral lands.
So jails and mental institutions
are full of our people.*

*Wadjularbinna Nullyarimma,
Gungalidda Elder and member of
Aboriginal Tent Embassy*

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

We know that those most likely to end up in custody are poor: First Nations; those with disability; have experienced abuse or trauma; have a parent who has been in prison; are homeless; have problems with alcohol or other drugs.

First Nations young people (aged 10 to 25) remain the [most over-represented group in our prison population](#). 50% of our juvenile justice population is Indigenous despite First Nations people only making up 3% of the population.

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics confirms that increased numbers are the consequence of tougher bail and sentencing policies.

The Bail Act has never reflected the interests of young people and is more onerous for first Nations juveniles. Its limitations were exacerbated by the 2010 amendments. Although the bail Amendment Act 2014 required the bail authority to note the 'presumption of innocence, this has been gradually eroded.

The Government has ignored the **recommendations of the UPR report**, with calls from 31 countries, to raise the age of criminal responsibility to at least 14.

Thus there exist **two policy goals in conflict**. We want to reduce the rate of juvenile first Nations imprisonment in NSW yet we use imprisonment as the main means towards that end, despite numerous studies showing that it doesn't achieve that goal.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

[The adverse effects of imprisoning children at such an early age](#) have been well documented by medical professionals, with clear evidence that *children become entrapped in a cycle of crime disadvantage and criminal liability*, and that this disproportionately impacts on children from low socio-economic backgrounds.

The [earlier a child enters the justice system](#), the more likely that child is to have repeat interactions with the system.

The current laws are contributing to the [over-representation of Indigenous children](#) in the Australian justice system. Indigenous children are 17 times more likely to be in detention than non-Indigenous children, while over 60% remain unsentenced.

The Government is continuing to ignore the recommendations of successive Royal Commissions, and its professed commitment to the Closing the Gap measures regarding youth incarceration.

The 'political necessity' to appear tough on crime means that NSW governments have invested little in alternative measures or programs.

Putting young offenders in **custody is both ineffective and expensive**. Not only does the "law and order" approach not deter crime, but the cost to keep a juvenile in custody is in excess of \$150,000 a year.

Policy based solely on law-and-order results in demands for more detention centres at considerable cost, and with consequent cutting of costs to other services.

WHAT CAN WE DO POLITICALLY?

WE CAN LOBBY CANDIDATES:

To improve the quality of legal help available to young people so that they are able to articulate their defence in the culturally foreign environment of a courtroom.

To change the bail act to ensure that **juvenile-specific criteria** override the inflexible and punitive provisions of bail and repeat offenders' legislation.

To adopt a bipartisan approach that makes a commitment to reinvesting funds into programs such as the community-based model being advocated by *Just Reinvest*, a program **ideally suited to the particular circumstances of Indigenous communities**.

To reinvest a percentage of funds that would have been spent on law and order into early intervention, crime prevention and diversionary programs, thus creating savings in the criminal justice system. Such programs could reduce offending and re-offending rates by **assessing problems** facing particular communities, and **diverting funds** into areas, which can be tracked and reinvested.

To invest in policies to keep all young people out of the criminal justice system and change the focus in youth detention centres to support and rehabilitation as a priority.

To expand education in all juvenile detention centres to overcome the negative consequences on both education and outcomes and facility management for young people in detention.

to invest in preventative and restorative programs

WHAT CAN WE DO AS A COMMUNITY?

WE CAN BEGIN CONVERSATIONS

Research internationally has shown clearly that **reducing poverty** and all that goes with it will **reduce crime** and ultimately the number of people in gaols. An approach that builds skills and resilience is ultimately more cost effective than spending \$500 per day to keep a child locked up.

Diversionary, properly funded and culturally appropriate programs that work with young people to detect signs of problem behaviour can help divert young people from entering, or re-entering the juvenile justice system.

Overrepresentation of first Nations youth in the criminal justice system is a national crisis to which all governments must respond. All jurisdictions must address the root causes of Indigenous disadvantage, and rehabilitate young First Nations people currently in the system.

Evidence-based policy can no longer be passed over in favour of short-term political gains. **We do not need another "law and order" election.**

There is need for **better trained and culturally informed police and judiciary**, properly resourced legal defence services, and working alternatives to incarceration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Justreinvest.org.au

Australian Indigenous Law Review
2010, Vol.14, Number 1.

Bail laws in NSW, 'The Law Report,'
<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lawreport/stories/2010/3072759.htm> -
www.antar.org.au/nsw

PHILOSOPHY OF JUST REINVEST

Justice Reinvestment has shown that a focus on prevention and rehabilitation leads to community based and restorative justice programs., which have recorded lower rates of re-offending.

WE CAN GIVE THEM A LIFE NOT LIFE IN PRISON

Just Reinvest NSW is committed to addressing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in custody.

WE CAN UNLOCK THE PATHWAY TO CHANGE

Homelessness, child abuse, disability, high-risk drug and alcohol use, poor school attendance, a lack of appropriate services; violence, discrimination and poverty all act as precursors to young people becoming entrenched in the criminal justice system. These issues are difficult for Aboriginal young people to manage without help.

WE CAN BUILD THEM A BRIGHTER FUTURE

We aim to influence the New South Wales Government to shift spending that has been allocated for prisons towards community-based programs and services that address the factors contributing to criminal behaviour.

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DISABILITY

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

Human dignity is the cornerstone of our moral vision for society, and human life is sacred.

All people are equal and deserve to be treated equally across all ages, abilities, diversities, and disabilities.

We are all responsible to protect human rights and the dignity of each – especially those who are most vulnerable – those who are disabled and mentally unwell.

How we treat our most vulnerable is a bottom-line test of our quality as a society.

It is a basic human right to be granted the opportunity to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination based on their level of disability.

“States Parties shall prohibit all discrimination on the basis of disability and guarantee to persons with disabilities equal and effective legal protection against discrimination on all grounds.”

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES

For many years, people with disabilities were confined and kept hidden in large institutions. Today, as well, many people with disabilities find themselves locked out of places like homes, workplaces, sports teams, and community organisations.

Due to the [inadequacy of NDIS assistance plans to meet demands](#), limited services are provided. The NDIS takes a very long time to respond to appeals on both access and financing.

Only 53.4% of working-age people with a disability are in jobs. The [NDIS has not been able to enhance the employment of disabled persons](#).

Australia has the [lowest relative income of disabled individuals among OECD nations](#).

1.2 million persons with disabilities who live in NSW report having difficulty using transportation, despite plans to have all public transit in NSW fully accessible by 2022.

Australians with disabilities do not have legal access to necessary equipment like wheelchairs, hoists, and communication devices, in contrast to other affluent nations.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

As a result of these concerns people with disabilities are:

- Subject to a poor quality of life and [more likely to live in poverty](#).
- Subject to abuse because of fear, ignorance, and prejudice.
- Young people with a disability become reluctant to want to take part in regular learning further impacting their educational opportunities.

Disability-based discrimination is associated with higher levels of psychological [distress and trauma in young people \(aged between 15-25\) with disabilities](#).

Young people with mental health illnesses or cognitive impairment are at least six times more likely to be arrested and sentenced to prison in NSW due to continued ignorance in the state legal system.

The lack of visibility and representation of people with disability in public roles enhances the difficulty in recognising their potential.

WHAT CAN WE DO POLITICALLY?

WE CAN LOBBY CANDIDATES

To improve accessible services, environments, and transportation to enable the social inclusion of people with a disability throughout NSW.

To introduce and encourage full participation of people with a disability in a range of decision-making bodies within NSW state and local governments.

To ensure full transparency and accountability within the NSW NDIS system to further enhance the quality of reporting complaints, financial outcomes, and holistic support for all forms of disability.

To Further recognise and endorse the NSW Disability Act to enhance the knowledge of people with a disability of their rights and entitlements within NSW statelaws.

To introduce legislation that gives people with disabilities the right to access free, essential and lifesaving equipment to encourage a full and healthy quality of life.

“Inclusion is intentional. It is about identifying and removing barriers so that everyone can participate to the best of their ability”

The Inclusive Class

WHAT CAN WE DO PERSONALLY?

We can establish a safe space for people with disabilities through our social groups, schools, and workplaces. This will further encourage:

1. **Elevation of the voices** of people with disability, their carers, and families.
2. **Our own accountability and ignorance** when it come to the unjust experiences of people with a Disability in NSW.
3. **Positive representations** of disability by putting the person before their disability.
4. **The establishment of new mechanisms to promote social inclusion.**

For more information:

PWDA:

<https://pwd.org.au/disability-rights/policy-areas-and-position-statements/issues-to-do-with-the-ndis/>

CRE-DH:

<https://credh.org.au/publications/fact-sheets/how-discrimination-impacts-on-the-health-of-people-with-disability/>

Disability Gateway:

<https://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads/roles-responsibilities/responsible-services-nsw>

Health and Human Rights Resource Guide:

<https://www.hhrguide.org/2014/03/21/disability-and-human-rights/>

“Until the concept of disability disappears and is replaced by a society that is structured to support everyone’s life relatedness and contribution— until that day my life and opportunities and the lives of every other person who carries the label ‘disabled’ depends on the goodwill of people in the human service system. Goodwill is no substitute for freedom.”

Unknown

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EDUCATION FOR ALL

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

It is our belief that **education is the right of every child.**

All students have the right to **equitable, intrinsically valuable, and accessible** education

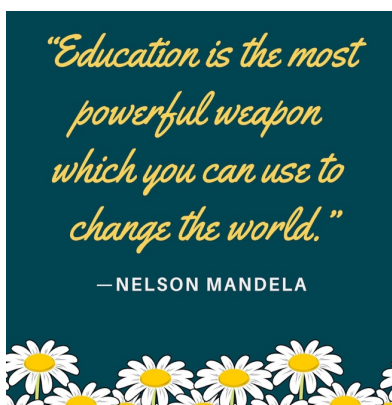
Quality education for all students is a **critical investment** that NSW makes for its future.

Parents have the primary **right and obligation** to ensure the best education for their children.

Both the **Commonwealth and State Governments play a critical role** in the provision of funding that is stable, long term and committed to all students.

An **equitable distribution of resources** takes into particular account the needs of students disadvantaged by social, economic, cultural or physical factors.

The valuing of teachers leads logically to the provision of adequate resources for ongoing teacher education, remuneration, and ongoing teacher development.



WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

Impact of Covid

Covid 19 has led to [unprecedented disruption to teaching and learning across schools in NSW](#), which have affected standards, staff shortages, and mental health challenges.

Educational Standards

Across all areas of education, [Australian students have not improved their achievement on international tests](#) for over a decade, and are [falling behind students in other advanced nations](#). Despite [improvements in some schools](#), students in both primary and secondary schools are missing out on important milestones.

Funding

The OECD 2018 **Education at a Glance** report has revealed that the Australian education sector falls below OECD averages in public education funding, access to early childhood education, class sizes and teacher workload.

Specific **cuts in funding in NSW**, in **TAFE, Abstudy and in Adult Migrant Education Services** have [limited opportunities for job skills training and employment](#)

Deepening Divide

The [education gulf in NSW](#) is accelerating and widening significantly, with the concentration of [advantaged students attending privileged schools reaching almost 60%](#). Figures from the government's [MySchool website](#) show that in NSW, selective high schools are among the most socio-educationally advantaged in the state, surpassing even prestigious private schools.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

Covid 19

While the evidence that COVID-19 and learning from home had less impact on student achievement than anticipated, the [results have clearly been worse](#) for those most vulnerable and disadvantaged, especially in high schools.

Across NSW, cuts in TAFE funding have reduced job opportunities and increased unemployment across the state in key areas

Impact of falling standards

- Educational trends have led to **an emphasis on standardised tests** as the benchmark of a school's standards.
- Teacher shortage, particularly in specific subject areas, has been exacerbated by the low status of, and limited career paths in the teaching profession.

Funding

Below-average funding has negatively impacted on students in disadvantaged groups, especially those in greatest need, and those with the least powerful voices.

Wedge Politics

The increasing use of wedge politics, through ideologically and politically driven attempts to create competition between sectors, has led to the polarisation of educational sectors, rather than a united commitment by educational bodies to achieve equity for all educational institutions.

WHAT CAN WE DO POLITICALLY?

WE CAN LOBBY CANDIDATES:

To commit to a level playing field in future planning that provides **greater equity, certainty and choice** for schools into the future

To **counter actively** the clustering of advantage and disadvantage, which has resulted from a range of issues, including social, economic and political.

To promote **ongoing consultation with all stakeholders about the need** for a longer-term and future-focused vision for both the design and content of curriculum.

To place **greater focus on the needs of students who have been disadvantaged by the cuts of the past twenty years** (to compensate for differences in social status, material wealth, geographic location and resource levels)

To provide **equitable access to new technologies** to overcome the digital divide

To provide **opportunities for all students to complete tertiary studies** without needless hardship

To **increase TAFE funding and traineeships** across all areas of job skills, but especially for essential workers

To provide **for the valuing and ongoing professional development of teachers** to meet rapidly changing demands and address both teacher and student well-being

To increase **funding to early childhood education**, so that it is accessible and affordable for the whole community, not just those who are wealthy.

WHAT CAN WE DO PERSONALLY?

Inform ourselves about **standards** of education in NSW and about the causes and results of policies of the past 20 years

To support, in conversation with family and friends, **increased funding to all schools**, with an emphasis on students in greatest need

Promote a more **sophisticated approach** to education, which recognises that education is more than basic skills testing

Invite **guest speakers** who can lead a discussion on the vision, aims and practice in education today.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Catholic Education Commission NSW
<http://www.csnsw.catholic.edu.au>

Catholic Schools Office Sydney
www.sydcatholic.schools.nsw.edu.au/

Australian Education Union
www.aeufederal.org.au/

Mission Australia
www.missionaustralia.com.au

Australian Universities
WWW.universitiesaustralia.edu.au

*A century from now,
what shall be said of our journey
in these times?
And who shall the shapers have been?
Who shall have shaped the future
more?
The hopeful dreamers
who were strong enough
to suffer for the dream?
Or the fearful pessimists
who were convinced
that dreaming and hope
are for sleepers only,
not for those awake to the age?
A century from now,
shall hope and humour
have been strong enough
to enable living
with unanswerable questions?
Or shall the pain
that a transitional age brings
have caused a retreat to old answers
that no longer acknowledge new
questions?
A century from now,
we shall have indeed journeyed ...
and real journeyers know
that the direction is always chosen
by those who make the journey.
Who shall choose the direction?
...So the question is still the same ...
A century from now, what shall be
said
of our human journey in these times?
And who shall the shapers have been?*

Lilian Smith The Journey, 1954

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ENVIRONMENT

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

The entire world is linked and interdependent. How we manage and utilise the land has an impact on its health. Healthy lands are a result of healthy ecosystems, ecological elements, and the work of people.

The conservation of earth's resources is vital for our own and the planet's survival

To understand the nature of our environment, it is crucial to comprehend what the environment means to First Nations peoples.

The mismatch between individual responsibility and environmental behaviour is a major obstacle for environmental management.

We have a responsibility to protect both people and the environment in order to live our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.

Because it performs functions other than ensuring human survival, the environment is important in all its expressions.

At this moment in our history, we recognise that we are facing our greatest existential crisis.

“This is a central issue in today's world, a problem that affects everyone ...and it cries out for practical solutions.”

Pope Francis: Laudato Si'

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

NSW Coal Mine Expansions

The Moolarben Coal Complex is now authorised to operate in the NSW Hunter Valley until 2038. By 2050, the Hunter region's expanding mine is expected to generate 400 million tonnes of coal.

A new goal set by the NSW Government (70%, by 2035) is being questioned by many of the fossil fuel companies. A 50% decrease by 2030 was the prior target.

NSW State Climate Law Reform

This Bill forbids decision-makers from attaching conditions to mining approvals and eliminates an explicit requirement that decision-makers consider downstream emissions to limit the consideration and regulation of emissions unnecessarily and inappropriately generated by fossil fuel projects.

Water Management & Compliance

Using canals and pumps, irrigators drain a sizable amount of river water each year. Every year, this practice eliminates a substantial number of fish from rivers.

The final 25% of the NSW plan's water savings that were supposed to be attained through water-saving initiatives, will not be delivered by the deadline of June 2024. This mostly results from the NSW government's inability to create water resource plans (WRPs).

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

The politicisation of climate change, as well as the lack of compliance and consideration by the NSW Government, has exacerbated the effects of climate change throughout the state.

In NSW, the temperature has risen by 1.4 degrees since 2020. With time, it is anticipated that climate change will intensify. The average temperature in NSW is predicted to increase by another 2.1 degrees by 2070.

Sea levels are rising at a rate that has nearly doubled. The Port Kembla Baseline Sea Level Monitoring Station now shows an average increase in sea levels of 3.4mm annually since 1991.

36 additional sites were deemed to be substantially polluted by the EPA. Petroleum industry or service station sites make up 53% of these locations.

More than 80% of the main channel weirs in the Murray-Darling Basin employ a "undershot" design to manage water flow. As a result, many small-bodied fish perish, raising the threat of extinction for several species.

With roughly 5.5 million hectares burned, the Black Summer fire season was the most catastrophic ever recorded in NSW. It is estimated that over a billion animals were destroyed or relocated. An estimated 62% of the vegetation is now threatened by excessive exposure to fire.

Approximately 9.6% of the land in NSW is currently covered by the public reserve system, which has expanded by more than 300,000 hectares since 2018.

WHAT CAN WE DO POLITICALLY?

We can lobby candidates for:

The adoption of new climate change legislation in NSW that addresses both climate change mitigation and adaptation in a concise and well-coordinated manner.

A new provision of the Planning Act that outlines a strategy to cut emissions and keep global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

Restoration of healthy rivers particularly the Murray-Darling system through co-operation between Federal Government and other States to renegotiate the Murray Darling Basin Plan

A moratorium imposed on Coal Seam Mining extraction until a proper strategy is developed to include community consultation and independent scientific input.

A precautionary, integrated approach to managing the impacts of Coal Seam Gas developments, with a prohibition on Coal Seam Gas extraction in Sydney's water catchment and State Conservation areas.

The strengthening of requirements for decision makers to refuse projects with unacceptable climate impacts and risks, a move that would enable decision makers as well as the NSW Government to stay within the global carbon budget.

WHAT CAN WE DO PERSONALLY?

Modify our day-to-day activities that will further enable us to reduce our carbon footprint.

- **“Shop local and buy sustainable”.** Sustainable agriculture uses up to 56% less energy and creates 64% fewer emissions.

Volunteer or join a group such as [Oz Green](#) that will enable us to learn about the effects of Climate Change and teach us many ways to address the problem.

Keep up the political pressure. Continue to pressure our local politicians with the ongoing issues of Climate Change in NSW. Politicians must participate in the solution if humanity is to be successful in addressing the climate issue.

For More Information:

Australian Mining:
<https://www.australianmining.com.au/news/concerns-grow-over-nsw-coal-mine-expansions/>

NSW EPA:
<https://www.soe.epa.nsw.gov.au/all-themes/water-and-marine/river-health#infrastructure-hazards-pressures>

Community Legal Centre NSW:
<https://www.clcnsw.org.au/index.php/how-not-do-state-climate-law-reform>

Environmental Defenders Office:
<https://www.edo.org.au/publication/climate-ready-planning-laws/>

“For most of history, humanity has had to fight nature to survive. In this century we are beginning to realise that in order to survive we must protect it”

Jacques Xes Cousteau

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HEALTH CARE

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

We believe that **health** is a social good that is **basic to the fabric of society**, and that it is a **fundamental right of every person**.

We believe that a properly funded, universal health care system **protects the rights of all**.

It is the **responsibility of Government** to provide and fund quality health care programs and services.

A system, **funded from government, non-government and private sources**, is critical to quality care, based on equity, universality and ease of access.

A **person-centred system**, rather than one that is facility-centred, or primarily based on profit-making, is central to health as a social good.

Frail, chronically ill or marginalised persons have special needs, and any **system that disadvantages those on the margins undermines the rights of all**.

Planning for adequate health and aged care infrastructures and services **underpins services into the future**

When we have sold all our public assets, where will future funds come from? There has to be another way at this time.

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

Health and socio-economic status
[Levels of health for people in NSW depend increasingly on socio-economic status](#). The lowest 20% of income earners in NSW experience the highest levels of poor health outcomes.

First Nations health
First Nations Australians remain the [most disadvantaged group](#) in Australia as measured by life expectancy, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and access to services.

Mental illness
Evidence shows that [mental illness](#) is associated with socio-economic disparities.

Aged Care
The demands of an ageing population continue to be undermined by [failing services and infrastructures](#).

Rural and regional NSW
Decreasing numbers of rural health workers, and [reduced access to healthcare](#), are not being addressed sufficiently by the major parties.

Government Funding
Current debate indicates that funding will remain a critical issue. Hospitals are being forced to cover severe funding shortfalls in NSW by raising hundreds of millions of dollars in external revenue. (AMA). Health Professionals claim that commitment to Medicare will determine the future of NSW hospitals.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

We know that without collaboration between the Federal and State Governments, and the non-government sectors, very little will happen. Stronger public and NGO **partnerships are key** to the delivery of effective strategies and action, especially in low socio-economic communities.

We know that without **specific Aboriginal-controlled services with adequate programs**, disadvantage will continue for First Nations people.

We know that the provision of **integrated residential treatment and rehabilitation facilities** is critical for people with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse.

We know that **funding models** for the care of **older Australians** need to be radically transformed, and new care models introduced (*Catholic Health Australia*).

We know if we broaden the criteria to increase reimbursement costs for **rural people and their carers**, (e.g. for travel) greater access will be available for these people.

We know that Increased funding for **public dental services**, with particular focus on preventative dental services is essential.

We know that expansion and development of the **NSW Health ComPacks Program**, will improve patient outcomes and hospital discharge practices.

WHAT CAN WE DO POLITICALLY?

The current debate over funding between Commonwealth and State Governments has thrown the health debate into disarray. Increased funding is essential and cannot occur without collaboration. There is also the concern that the current Government has tied its commitments to the sale of public assets. This is a serious problem to those who are opposed to privatisation. **Patient care must never take second place to politics.**

WE CAN THEREFORE LOBBY CANDIDATES:

- To commit to **negotiation based on health and social needs**, not political agenda
- To develop clear action plans that focus on **reducing inequalities** in health outcomes and services
- To **target first Nations health** as a major priority (NSW has the largest number of First Nations people in Australia)
- To commit to the development of a **new mental health system in NSW** that ensures access to mental health care, especially for homeless people and those who find it difficult to engage with the health care system.
- To make **access to aged care an entitlement** to those assessed as needing it, and provide adequate wages for those working in aged care facilities
- To **broaden criteria and services for rural and disadvantaged people**

WHAT CAN WE DO PERSONALLY?

We can **share ideas** with our own community.

We can **work with like-minded groups.**

We can **investigate possibilities** in our area of influence and action.

We can **raise awareness** of Health issues by inviting representatives of Catholic Health Australia and community advocates and practitioners to speak with us.

We can **advocate** with religious and community groups to investigate realities and possibilities within their own sectors (on any given day, one in ten of all Australians in a hospital or aged care bed are being cared for by a Catholic health or aged care service).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Catholic Health Care Services:
www.catholichealthcare.com.au

Catholic Health Australia:
www.cha.org.au

NCOSS:
www.ncoss.org.au

St Vincent de Paul Society:
www.vinnies.org.au

Australian catholic Social Justice Council
www.acsjc.org.au

[Patients before Profits](#)
[Nurses against Privatisation](#)

MAY GOD BLESS US WITH DISCOMFORT

at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

MAY GOD BLESS US WITH ANGER

at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for economic justice for all people.

MAY GOD BLESS US WITH TEARS

to shed for those who suffer from pain, hunger, homelessness and rejection, so that we may reach out our hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

AND MAY GOD BLESS US WITH ENOUGH FOOLISHNESS

to believe that we can make a difference in the world so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.'

Source: Education for Justice.

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HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

Every Australian has the right to a home.

Poverty and homelessness are the problems, not the people experiencing them..

Adequate housing is a basic human need and a fundamental human right. (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, No. 25)

Affordable, appropriate, and secure housing, which offers safety, privacy, and reasonable security of tenure, is fundamental to adequate housing provision.

Access to quality, affordable housing, which includes accessibility to transport, employment, and community services, is central to community well-being, and provides a foundation for family and social stability.

The role of Government is critical in ensuring that the housing rights of people are met, particularly for those on low incomes and those with special needs.

Many factors lead to homelessness, but ultimately it is the result of poverty.

“People who are homeless are not social inadequates. They are people without homes”.

Sheila McKenzie

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

Housing Stock

The current waiting list for social housing in NSW is almost 50,000. With waiting time currently at more than 10 years for people that have not been deemed a priority case.

NSW currently builds 34,000 residential dwellings per year, of which approximately 700 – or 2% are social housing. At this rate it could take 70 years to house everyone on the waiting list.

Homelessness

In 2022, 70,000 people were assisted in NSW. Homelessness cannot be solved without more housing for those on low incomes.

Unmet requests for accommodation in NSW rose from 37% to 48% over the last five years. Government investment in the homeless remains at only \$34.96 per person, per day.

Rental Standards & Affordability

There is a surging rental crisis in Sydney, where renters have faced an 11% increase in the past year.

Landlords do not have to meet minimum buildings standards on their investments and renters do not have security of tenure to seek adequate effective repairs.

‘No grounds’ evictions allow landlords to evict a tenant at the end of a fixed-term lease, or during an on-going lease, without giving any reason.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

In the past fifty years, Australia has moved from a society where housing was seen as a universal right, to one where it is now predominantly viewed as a safety net for those most in need.

Social problems (violence, financial insecurity, unemployment, underemployment, delinquency, marriage breakdown, infirmity, and old age) have been shown to be aggravated by the lack of, or inadequate, housing.

The negative impact of inadequate housing has exacerbated the need for spending on health, prisons, and welfare provisions. In many large housing estates, the lack of support systems has resulted in significant instability.

People often find it more difficult to maintain their health and their relationships if they don't have a house to use as a secure and solid basis. Being homeless enhances feelings of loneliness and increases the likelihood that a person may use drugs or have issues with mental health.

“Decent, affordable housing should be a basic right for everybody in this country. The reason is simple: without stable shelter, everything else falls apart”.

Matthew Desmond

WHAT CAN WE DO POLITICALLY?

We can lobby candidates to:

- Commit to radically boost the supply of social and affordable housing, by making sizable investments in public and communal housing and giving community land trusts and cooperatives sincere attention.
- mandate a 30% social and affordable housing target on all public land earmarked for development
- Reform NSW tenancy laws so that current inadequate laws are radically adjusted:
 - To eliminate unjust “no grounds” eviction clauses
 - To explicitly forbid “rent bidding” in the tenancy laws of NSW
- Make a commitment to implementing minimum mandated energy efficiency criteria for rental properties
- Increase government funding into homelessness support services
- Provide genuine safe, affordable housing for those who require it, with supportive housing services and intentional community services attached for those who need them
- Facilitate the transition to renewable energy for low- and moderate-income households for *both* renters and home owners.

WHAT CAN WE DO PERSONALLY?

We can share ideas with our own community.

We can work with like-minded groups.

We can investigate possibilities in our area of influence and action.

We can raise awareness of housing issues by inviting community and social housing advocates and practitioners to speak with us.

We can advocate with religious and community groups to investigate possibilities within their own sectors.

For more information:

Tenants Union of New South Wales
https://www.tenants.org.au/news/housing-crisis-regional-nsw-what-can-be-done?gclid=CjwKCAiAxxVpRj3I-EiwAMPakqp0wVpRj3I-tuzpCJ13NZAkzJrVu6gj9YkFX_KGSP0grNfaOtaCdRoC78MQAvD_BwE

Homelessness NSW
<https://homelessnessnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/EndHomelessnessTogether-Report-WEB.pdf>

Renters Rights
<https://www.rentersrights.org.au/fags#:~:text='No%20grounds'%20evictions%20allow%20landlords,to%20keep%20renting%20it%20out.>

Shelter NSW
[Shelter NSW 2023 Election](#)

“Just as the commandment ‘Thou shalt not kill’ sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say ‘thou shalt not’ to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills. How can it be that it is not news when a homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points?”

Pope Francis

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PRIVATISATION

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

NSW is a democratic State within one of the world's richest democracies. Therefore, **the privatisation strategy the NSW Government chose has a definite effect on the prominence of democracy** throughout the state.

Privatisation involves **government officials redesigning the state**, while retaining formal power of authorization.

As a democratic state we are entitled to a government that is transparent, honest, and concise with all its spending and policies. **A government that does not undermine the value of Civil Society and the right to vote.**

Although **there is no strong economic case for what assets governments should own**, there has never been any strong economic evidence that privatisation delivers benefits to budgets either.

“Weakening democratic control over public goods and services increases economic, political, and racial inequality.”

Inequality Report

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

Privatisation has enabled the Government to proceed with record infrastructure spending but has placed ownership in the hands of huge corporations, thus eroding democracy, and removing decision making processes from the public and given to Corporations.

Privatisation has resulted in job cuts, reduced training opportunities, environmental damage, displacement of people and increased prices and reduced services.

The selling off State-owned assets to the private sector is a one-off benefit only, placing both dividends and responsibility for services in the hands of privately owned and privately-run monopolies, often with little motivation to attend to social benefits and costs.

Often private infrastructure assets and increased foreign investment are structured so that there is very little tax paid in Australia.

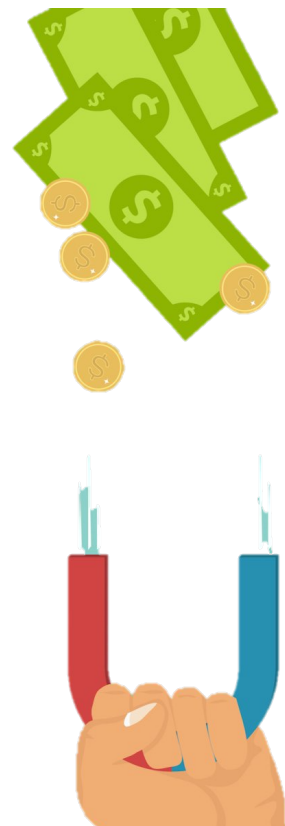
Privately owned monopolies – e.g., the tens of billions of dollars raised in the Telstra privatisation could never compensate for the uncompetitive landscape created. Australia still ranks an awful [46th](#) in the world for average broadband speeds as a result.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

Growing inequality is accelerating where shareholders are the only beneficiaries of what was once a public asset with public reward.

Shareholders are the sole beneficiaries of privatisation. Low-income households tend not to own shares but bear the burden of rising prices of privatised assets.

Short sightedness of government policy means that governments are thinking in terms of the next election only and reluctant to develop and implement long-term public policy.



WHAT CAN WE DO POLITICALLY?

WE CAN LOBBY CANDIDATES:

1. Adopt policies that **require the Governments to show a minimum level of cost savings over the duration of a contract.**
2. Ensure **all displaced workers** – because of privatisation - are **offered employment by the contractors at comparable rates and benefits.**
3. Construct **policies that ensure contractors do not undermine the standards for wages and benefits through “Living Wage Initiatives”.**
4. **Adopt a policy that only allows privatisation to occur only if it will cost substantially less than in-house performances of the service.**



WHAT CAN WE DO PERSONALLY?

Inform your local community about the privatisation issue:

Your community needs to be aware that privatisation poses a serious danger and that, as a voter and resident of NSW, it is crucial for them to be educated.

Learn about the "privatisation discourse" in politics: When the State Government starts discussing the need to "restructure" government or slash finances. This kind of discourse frequently signals the start of a privatisation plan.

Speak Up: Visit your local elected officials and voice your concerns about privatisation. Keep in mind that we should be enthusiastic, not fearful, to alert our regional decision-makers to issues with public services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Australian Competition & Consumer Commission:

<https://www.accc.gov.au/media-release/privatise-for-efficiency-or-not-at-all>

Save Our Services:

https://www.saveourservices.com.au/stop_privatisation

Search Foundation:

https://www.search.org.au/privatisation_time_to_stop_the_sell_offs_and_outsourcing



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TRANSPORT

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

The provision of transport as an essential service is a **basic human right** in today's world. (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church*)

Affordable, accessible, reliable, and secure transport is fundamental to an adequate infrastructure, and is the right of every Australian

The role of Government is critical in ensuring that infrastructure and transport needs of people are met, particularly for those on low incomes or with special needs.

Comprehensive and broad planning in infrastructure and transport fosters functional and attractive cities and centres and contributes to improved societal outcomes.

The actions of each generation must consider the needs of future generations and the environment. Governments have responsibility for both.

Co-operation between Federal and State Governments is **essential for any effective infrastructure development.**

Planning should be centralised, community focussed, and **not market driven**



WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

Nearly 25% of the [state's passenger railways are over 30 years old](#), and 45% are over 20 years old. Due to a contractual disagreement over the design of the new regional trains intended to succeed them, trains like the XPTs and Xplorers are expected to remain in operation for many more years than originally anticipated.

The [West Connex](#) which is costing taxpayers \$16.8b benefits only a relatively small number of Sydney residents, with traffic volumes reaching little more than one third of capacity, 10 years after opening

Running costs of NSW Transport infrastructure have become exorbitant, with Australians paying three times more for comparable infrastructure projects than other industrialised nations.

[Train service between Chatswood and Epping](#) has been halted due to the Sydney Metro Northwest stage's construction while the route is updated. The area's road network is already under stress from 20,000 people per day using alternate modes of transportation (like buses and cars).

Car Dependency

Population increases and inadequate planning have contributed to growing pressures on transport systems and increasing car dependency. Both cars and freight on roads are increasing, with negative impacts on access and congestion, air pollution, and liveability.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

Those benefiting.

Current projects are perceived as being designed and commissioned for the **benefit of construction contractors and private investors**, rather than customers and the community.

Poor infrastructure

Limitations of current and proposed projects are resulting in significant problems across NSW:

- **Sydney** has become a **construction zone** causing havoc for businesses, motorists, and the community.
- **Excessive distances** from workplaces, schools and leisure pursuits create problems for many.
- **Public transport** continues to be **inadequate and limited** for all, but especially for those who are poor, frail or elderly.
- **Increased reliance on cars** results in traffic congestion, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and serious health, environmental, and economic consequences.
- **Increasing fuel prices** affect access to employment, education, goods and services, mobility, and participation in community activities.

Vested interests

The power of those with **vested interests** has a **disproportionate influence** on the transport agenda, maintaining a car/truck transport focus and diverting funding from public transport.

WHAT CAN WE DO POLITICALLY?

WE CAN LOBBY local Politicians and candidates:

To commit to the development of an effective and planned transport system, which serves the community, and which considers **regard for the environmental, economic, and social consequences of planning, and the efficient use of resources:**

- With **Planning controls** which serve the community rather than vested interests
- With **integration** of land use and transport
- With development of more **fuel-efficient vehicles**
- With commitment to **ongoing research** and infrastructure development
- With improved **country roads**

To foster and promote expansion and improvement of **public transport services** for the overall benefit of the whole community, rather than for the advantage of industry and investment.

- **A reconsideration of the shift to privatisation from public ownership of transport**
- **Greater frequency** of buses
- Better **coordination** with rail services
- Fares that allow for easier **transfers between modes**
- **Improved** bus and train timetables
- **Concession fares** for those on low incomes

WHAT CAN WE DO PERSONALLY?

We can **share ideas** with our own communities and interact with established non-government bodies working on transport issues.

We can **contact local community members** for discussion and action steps.

We can **write letters** or visit local government members and candidates to advocate for urgent action and emphasise the social impact of non-action.

We can actively support initiatives aimed at **getting cars off roads**: car pooling, cycle ways, “walking buses” for school and sporting activities, safety and access for motorcycles.

We can discourage the use of cars, knowing that more freeways will only encourage more cars.

For more information

www.stateplan.nsw.gov.au

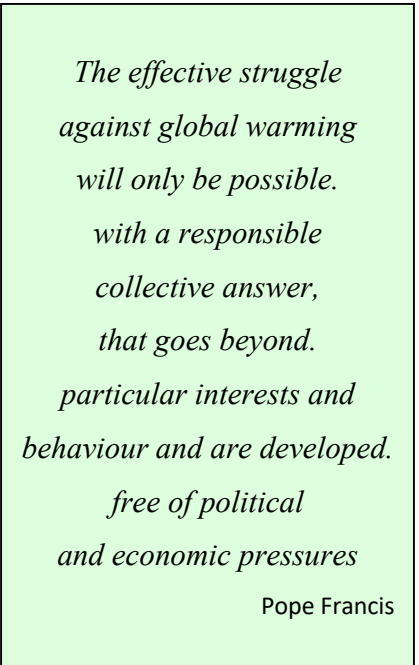
www.aptnsw.org.au/probsolns.htm

www.metrostrategy.nsw.gov.au/

www.itls.usyd.edu.au

www.lightrail.com.au

www.greenfleet.com.au



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THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

The full and equal participation of women in all facets of society is a fundamental human right.

Belief in gender equality means giving women the same rights, responsibilities, and value as men.

Inequality is a political choice: it is not inevitable.

The human rights of every woman includes the right to live free from violence and discrimination; to enjoy the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health and to be educated to the limits of one's abilities.

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world.

Every woman has the right to be seen, heard and recognised for her contributions to society.

“The world has never yet seen a truly great and virtuous nation because in the degradation of women the very fountains of life are poisoned at their source”.

Lucretia Mott

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

Domestic and Family Violence

In NSW specifically, there were 31,775 recorded incidents of domestic violence-related assaults in the 12 months to June 2022, and in the five years to December 2021, there were 137 domestic violence-related murders.

Family and domestic violence is a leading factor in one in three incidents of homelessness in NSW. Violence against women is often represented as a timeless and universal phenomenon, creating the perception that the problem is too big to fix, or that only the worst abuses are worthy of attention.

The Gender Pay Gap

Since May 2022 the gender pay gap is 12.4% in NSW, with women earning on average \$233.40 less than men in weekly fulltime pay.

The gender pay gap is especially evident in specific fields such as professional, scientific, and technical services.

Anti-Discrimination Laws

NSW anti-discrimination laws are outdated and fail as an acceptable code of conduct. A recent report by the Public Interest Advocacy Centre makes a case that the people of NSW are poorly served by this antiquated law.

The NSW Act remains simply a law that prohibits discrimination – it does not actively promote measures to secure equality, as do laws in other jurisdictions.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

Women suffering incidents of domestic violence are more likely to:

- experience depression, panic attacks, anxiety and sleeping disorders.
- have an increased risk of misusing alcohol and other drugs, and of using pain killers.
- Be unable to act on their own choices because of physical restraint, fear, and intimidation. They often live in persistent fear of further violation.

Because of the gender pay gap women are less able to accumulate wealth than men. These inequalities are felt more by older women in retirement, as a lifetime of gendered financial discrimination has impacted the superannuation they have accrued.

Research has shown that there is a link between the increased prevalence of depression and anxiety in women and the levels of stress exacerbated by gendered financial discrimination.

Without a positive duty to both eliminate discrimination and harassment and make reasonable adjustments to address inequality, the NSW act fails its essential purpose – to enact laws and policies which promote equality.

WHAT CAN WE DO POLITICALLY?

We can lobby candidates to:

Launch a statewide education initiative to raise awareness of domestic violence's origins, devastating effects, and available response methods.

Support and enact a full reform of the Anti-Discrimination Act to modernise the laws against discrimination so that they clarify and clearly showcase the rights and responsibilities of all who experience discrimination.

Introduce inclusive recruitment and promotion practices in all NSW workplaces. To ensure all women regardless of age can be given a fair opportunity in all fields of employment.

- **Gender diverse and age diverse teams can foster innovation.**

Establish a think tank working for the NSW government to promote equality outcomes via independent, group-based, and human-centered research on gender inequality.

Support training and transitions by introducing measures that support female employees with useful services such as support networks, childcare supports and stay-in-touch programs.

Enact laws which protect women against domestic violence, and provide clear supports that enable them to flee such situations.

WHAT CAN WE DO PERSONALLY?

Speak up: by employing discourse in your everyday life that brings attention to women's rights and gender equality, you can spread awareness and break down barriers.

Maintain political pressure: pay visits to your local politicians with and present your own concerns about Women's Rights and Gender Inequality in NSW.

Volunteer: volunteering with a women's rights organisation is the perfect opportunity to learn more about women's rights and contribute to change.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WORKPLACE GENDER EQUALITY AGENCY:

https://www.wgea.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/Gender%20%26%20Age_Employer%20Actions.pdf

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE NSW:

<https://www.dvnsw.org.au/resources/policies-programs/>

AUSTRALIAN GENDER EQUALITY COUNCIL:

<https://www.agec.org.au/policyadvocacy/>

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY LAW SCHOOL:

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/law/news-and-events/news/2021/09/03/why-is-nsw-a-laggard-on-anti-discrimination-law-.html>

“Too often, women are insulted, beaten, raped, forced to prostitute themselves...if we want a better world, that will be a peaceful home and not a battlefield, we all need to do a lot more for the dignity of each woman”.

Pope Francis

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