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ELECTION
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AS WE STAND ON THE BRINK of the 2013 federal election, now is an excellent time to say thank you to all of our donors.

We started officially fundraising for this election last year. Thanks to the generosity of all our donors, we have been able to plan, with confidence, a professional and strategic campaign that has the potential to reach every electorate across the country.

We know that the old parties will be slinging mud at each other like never before, and we know that the Australian people are tired of it. They want an alternative.

We must convey the message to voters everywhere that we stand on principal – you know what you get when you vote Green. Accordingly, we have developed a positive, bright and bold campaign which will stand out – and will cut through the negative spin of the old parties.

While we will invest heavily in mass advertising we also need to invest in the grassroots campaigning that our candidates and volunteers do so well.

There are teams all across the country who are scraping together budgets, working out if they have enough money to have posters printed, stalls hired and leaflets ready for doorknocking.

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Even the most basic of campaign materials cost money, and while our hard working teams do their very best with what they have – a little bit more can go a very long way.

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Susan Sussems, National Fundraising Coordinator

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WA
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TWEET ROUNDUP

THIS ISSUE WE ARE FEATURING SOME NOTEWORTHY TWEETS. HOWEVER WE REALLY WELCOME YOUR RESPONSES (WORDS, POETRY OR IMAGES!) TO RECENT ARTICLES IN GREEN MAGAZINE. TO BE A PART OF OUR REGULAR LETTERS PAGE. PLEASE EMAIL US GREENMAG@GREENS.ORG.AU



JAMES HARRISON

@JamesHarrisonAU

4 JUL

Imagine a world where we take care of our environment and look after people in need. This is the vision of @Greens #QandA

Retweeted by Greens



SIMON SHEIKH

@SimonSheikh

16 JUN

@666canberra The single most important thing we can do is save the \$10bn clean energy fund. Next boom will be a renewables resources boom.



PENNY ALLMAN-PAYNE

@PJAllmanPayne

4 JUL

1.6 million Australians voted Green last election. We should hear from @senatormilne in the Leaders Debates. <http://grns.mp/leaders-debate>

Retweeted by Greens



SCOTT LUDLAM

@SenatorLudlam

5 JUL

Apache Energy plan drilling next to, even under, 'World Heritage' Ningaloo Reef. Its Barnett As Usual in WA: <http://scott-ludlam.greensmps.org.au/content/media-releases/ningaloo-reef-under-threat-apache-drilling-plans...>



BEN WOODHEAD

@BenWoodheadAFR

2 JUL

Ex @LiberalAus PM Malcolm Fraser to campaign with @Greens in SA in bid to stop @TonyAbbottMHR Senate control #auspol

Retweeted by Greens



ADAM STONE

@StoneAdam

2 JUL

LNP electoral reforms give more power to vested interests & protect major parties from democracy <http://bit.ly/18upE5X>



ADAM BANDT

@AdamBandt

4 JUL

To those asking: am aiming to win Melb in own right, doable with small swing. Expect Lib&ALP pref swap to try to oust me but we'll overcome!



JANET RICE

@janet_rice

8 JUL

The old parties need to join the Greens in seeking emissions reductns far beyond a 5% target - you can't compromise with the science. #qanda

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EDITORIAL

IT'S TIME TO GET ELECTION READY!

Green

THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS magazine

ISSUE 40: Winter 2013

PUBLISHER: The Australian Greens

EDITOR: Catherine Green (Seedpod)

DESIGNER: Natalija Brunovs (Seedpod)

ISSN: 1443-6701

PRINTED BY: Printgraphics PrintGreen

PRINTED ON: Maine Silk



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The Australian Greens wish to acknowledge that we are on indigenous ground – this land is the spiritual and sacred place of the traditional owners and their ancestors and continues to be a place of significance. Further, we thank them for sharing this land with us and agree to respect their laws and lores.



As we head toward an election there was really only one thing we could focus on for this issue.

After three years with the Greens in the balance of power, and the huge amount of progress this was able to bring about we knew that it was critical to inform our readers and members about key campaign issues and strategies, and most importantly what they could do to support the Greens.

And as we went to print, the landscape suddenly changed again.

The in-fighting of the Labor party led to the removal of our first female Prime Minister. And while this confirms the disarray that the Labor party is in, it doesn't change the job ahead of us as we head to an election. In fact with Rudd as Prime Minister there is even more reason to ensure there is a strong and progressive voice in parliament so that wins we have had, like the introduction of a clean energy plan, are not eroded and watered down. Meanwhile the threat of Tony Abbott taking control of parliament is still as real as ever.

Here in my own neighbourhood in the Melbourne electorate, work has already started on the campaign to get Adam Bandt re-elected. Groups of people have been getting together in lounge rooms, pubs and cafes to hold phone-banking sessions or knock on doors and have conversations with voters in their own local area about what issues are important to them and why they will be voting Green this election.

I can't say that these conversations have come easily to me, and my heart beats a little faster before every door that I knock on. But I have been encouraged by the conversations that I have had with people in my own neighbourhood and on my own street. And most of all I have been encouraged to keep making phone calls and knocking on doors by those people who have told me that, after our conversation, they are going Green in this election.

I really encourage everyone to read the checklist on the back cover of ways that you can support the election campaign and get involved any way you can.

Catherine Green

Editor

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Greens Achievements IN A MINORITY GOVERNMENT

THE 2013 FEDERAL ELECTION WILL MARK THE END OF A RARE PERIOD IN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY.
SENATOR CHRISTINE MILNE REVIEWS THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE GREENS' PRESENCE IN
PARLIAMENT OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS.

In 2010 an unprecedented 1.6 million people voted Green, electing four new Senators and, for the first time in a general election, a representative in the lower House seat of Melbourne.

Without a majority neither of the old parties were able to form government in their own right. With our record vote, the Australian Greens were put in a unique position to set out a clear agenda with the knowledge that we would have unprecedented influence to carry it out.

The agreement then-leader of the Australian Greens Bob Brown, Greens Member for Melbourne Adam Bandt and I signed with Julia Gillard and Wayne Swan to support the Labor party in Government included a framework of principles, goals and policy priorities for more transparent, accountable government, a more caring society and environmental protection.

The achievements made possible because of that agreement and the Greens huge presence in Parliament over the last three years are remarkable.

We have driven and delivered the biggest environmental, economic and social reform for decades – all as a result of that 1.6 million votes.

The one I am most proud of – and for which history will judge this period of government kindly – is the clean energy package. Because of the Greens, Australia has put a price on pollution, an incentive to change the way industry operates that's already seen the emissions that drive global warming reduced by 8.6%. It is raising funds to drive new renewable energy projects, to educate our communities and to protect wildlife habitat. The price on pollution will also be among the first positive reforms on the line if Tony Abbott succeeds at the next election.

Delivering free dental care as part of Medicare was a central part of the agreement with Labor and because of the Greens significant steps towards that aim have been taken. For the first time, Australian children can now access free dental health care as part of a \$5 billion investment that also included a massive expansion for the public dental system and over half a million dollars in this year's budget to tackle waiting lists.

The Greens also drove the establishment of the Parliamentary Budget Office – a vital new institution that will strengthen our democracy by not only costing election promises but in providing independent analysis of government budgets. Unlike Tony Abbott's Opposition the Greens will present a fully costed election platform in the lead up to this year's election.

Also because of the Greens in Parliament over the last three years, Australians now have:

- Steps to eradicate the scourge of petrol sniffing with laws to mandate non-sniffable petrol in Aboriginal communities.
- Recognition for Australia's first people and Traditional Owners at the beginning of Parliament.
- New laws to protect the independence of the ABC and SBS and their ability to deliver news and content online.
- Recognition for Peacekeepers at the Australian War Memorial along with other veterans.
- Strong momentum for marriage equality.

Even when the old parties have obstructed action, the Greens standing with the community, advocating against vested interests delivers results. Taxpayer money is no longer being invested in deadly tobacco after Greens' pressure convinced the Future Fund to cease investment in tobacco companies. James Price Point is safe for now after a long community campaign. Action is being taken to reduce the influence of gambling on sport.

In this term of minority government, the Greens have consistently provided stability, integrity and a caring and responsible approach in the public interest. We have worked with all parties to improve and then pass the vast bulk of the legislative agenda as well as several of our own bills. We have been outspoken on issues many people care deeply about, whilst being cooperative wherever opportunity for agreement existed.

ELECTION MAKEOVER

On the second last day of Parliament, the Labor party changed leaders again, removing Australia's first female Prime Minister and re-installing Kevin Rudd.

The Greens have made it clear we will not facilitate a Tony Abbott Government. But the need for the Greens in Parliament is more critical than ever.

With Labor in disarray and Kevin Rudd's tendency to flip flop on major issues, the Greens continue to stand as a trustworthy, consistent and progressive voice in Australian politics ready to take on both Kevin Rudd and Tony Abbott. There are already disturbing indications that Kevin Rudd will seek to implement an even harsher approach to refugees and weaken action on global warming.

The threat of an Abbott Government still looms. In fact, there remains a very real chance, Tony Abbott could still achieve a majority in both houses of Parliament, giving him total control of legislation. No



L-R: ADAM BANDT (MELBOURNE), JANET RICE (VIC), SIMON SHEIKH (ACT), CHRISTINE MILNE (AG LEADER), CATE FAHRMANN (NSW), WARREN H WILLIAMS (NT), ADAM STONE (QLD).

one party should have absolute power, and that is why you need the Greens.

Regardless who wins the election, the Greens are the strong stable party you can trust to stand up for a caring Australia and to protect the environment.

We will stand in the way of Abbott's excesses and ensure the Labor party holds the line and doesn't cave in on the issues that matter.

Without a strong Greens presence in Parliament, holding balance of power and standing up for the issues that matter, Australia risks:

- The loss of the **Clean Energy package** including the \$10 billion Clean Energy Finance Corporation.
- **The repeal of the mining tax**, giving up on any chance of the Australian community receiving its fair share of the bounty of our mineral wealth.
- **Cuts to schools**, higher education and TAFE.
- The loss of the **strongest human and compassionate voice** in Parliament on refugees.
- **Farmers being pressured to leave their land** by mining companies without any resistance from the Parliament.
- **The loss of huge swathes of food producing land** and contamination of water at a time when food security is confronting the whole world.
- **A harsher, less caring society**, with massive public sector job cuts and young people being thrown into poverty by an Abbott Government prepared to cut their income support payments completely.
- **Less transparency and accountability**, with the privatisation of the ABC and SBS.
- **The roll back of environmental protection** by 40 years.

That is why it is critical to support the Greens' outstanding team around the country.

For people who value public education, who care about our children and future generations, who want to see poverty alleviated not entrenched in our society, who want a smart economy based on innovation, and who want to see the arts promoted and funded as an indispensable part of creative culture and life - we are with you.

The Australian Greens will deliver a caring Australia, a safe climate and a proud global reputation. We are the competent, honest party who will stand up to those who protect their own interests to the detriment of the environment and deny everyone else a fair go and a caring country. It is the Greens who have the courage to stand up with a strong voice for what is right and what is genuinely strong, smart and fair. ▲

Candidate Profile



Rachael Jacobs

Representing the Greens to the electorate of Brisbane is a great honour and a responsibility that I take very seriously. This federal election will possibly be one of the nastiest and most vicious fights we've ever witnessed between the old parties. I'm standing because voters deserve better than that. I want to show people what politics should be about; compassion, solutions, vision and reasoned discussion and debate.

Part of my decision to stand came from my desire to see more women, young people and multicultural Australia represented in politics. As under-represented groups in parliament, we need to do our best to provide more diversity in politics, and show that the Greens take those issues seriously enough to pre-select credible candidates from those backgrounds.

For me, the most important role of the candidate is to bring people together for a common goal. Your best campaigners might come from your personal life, soccer club, workplace (or in my case, dance class). They might not be 100% sold on Green politics, but if they believe in you, they'll work tirelessly with passion. While we need every single body on a polling booth on election day, it's also vital that you match the right role to the right person. Everyone has a talent you can use, whether it be online support, organising events, keeping databases or even catering on election day (here's a special shout out to my mother-in-law, Heather, for being generous with her catering talents).

I also try to thank people often, make them feel valued and give them the experience of being part of a fantastic team. I want everyone to walk away from the campaign energised, rather than stressed and exhausted. I aim to change activity every two hours, campaigning in bite-sized chunks to keep everyone fresh, engaged and excited. That way, when you call for volunteers, people will come back for more.

My advice for those wanting to become candidates is to set goals and figure out what 'winning' means to you. Winning the seat is the ultimate aim, but you can have a winning experience with your team in other ways. Winning might mean signing up 20 new members, exceeding your fundraising target, engaging 1000 people on facebook, or simply being a role model in your community. My campaign already feels like a success because of the number of young women who have been inspired to join the team. We may not always win at the ballot box, but we can win the hearts and minds of the community. And never forget that campaigning should be fun. If it's not, then you're doing it wrong.



GRASSROOTS ORGANISING WINS CAMPAIGNS: LESSONS FROM THE U.S.

BESIDES THE FEELING THAT YOU'RE A PART OF SOMETHING VERY BIG BEING WATCHED ACROSS THE GLOBE, ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING THINGS ABOUT WORKING ON OBAMA'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN LAST YEAR WAS LEARNING MORE ABOUT ORGANISING ONE-TO-ONE, GOING DOOR-TO-DOOR AND HAVING CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE, WRITES **SAM LA ROCCA**.

Working on Obama's election campaign last year, I met young people, older people, white folks, black folks, Democrats and Republicans ... all with a story to tell.

Election day really brought home the power of one-on-one, face-to-face organising. It was bitterly cold. I was wearing almost all the clothes I'd brought with me to Virginia. The sea winds were whipping through us as we walked along the big streets between the beach and the burbs – one side lined with big white 3-storey American dreams and the other side stacked up with cheap brick flats and dry desolate yards. That's where I met the most interesting people.

One of these people was a guy called Cleveland. He was 54, African American (like 48% of Norfolk where I was working). When I knocked on the door of his second-floor flat rugged up, nose-running, fingers like popsicles, a wave of cooped-up electric heat and the smell of frying meat rushed over me. Cleveland was standing there in his house shorts and a singlet with the TV blaring.

My job was to knock on the doors of a targeted segment of East Ocean View to make sure people got to the polls. These were people who were known to be, or likely to be, Obama supporters (based on previous organising or consumer data analysis) but highly likely not to get to the polls.

I asked Cleveland whether he'd been out to vote yet (everyone's doing it!). He said "no", walked away, came back and shoved a plastic-sheathed card in my face and said "but they gave me this". It was his voter registration card. He'd probably been enrolled

by another volunteer during the first phase of the campaign, at his door or the local shopping centre. I said "yes that's right, you'll need this or another form of ID and I can tell you where your closest polling location is and organise you a ride if you like". At some point in the conversation I realised I'd better check he was voting for the President – just because every other black dude in America is, best check one's assumptions. He walked away again and brought back a sticker: 'Monarchists for Romney'. I was a bit confused, and went back to basics, talked through the candidates, why I was there, highlighted some Obama accomplishments and he affirmed he was backing the right guy. So I arranged a ride and said I'd get back to him, turns out he didn't have a phone, so I made a time that someone would come back and pick him up.

I called through to my field organiser who arranged a ride for 4pm, went and did my rounds including organising another ride for a really sweet woman just down the road from Cleveland's who had been waiting at home all day wishing she could vote but not able to leave her disabled son if it meant a long walk and bus ride.

I swung back past Cleveland to let him know everything was sorted. It hadn't been more than an hour, and he'd cleaned up, had trousers on, shirt tucked in, the TV was off and he was ready to go. I explained that someone would be back as planned. He was disappointed, "you're not coming with me?" I was caught off guard; what did he need me for? Turns out that Cleveland had never voted and he couldn't read. He didn't know what that voter registration card really



Bill Dodd

said and he wasn't really sure what he would have to do. The thing is, neither did I, but my limited face-to-face interactions meant that he'd preferred me to come rather than a stranger; we'd built up enough of a connection and he trusted me. I made a few calls and found out they had audio-assisted voting. The person doing the pick-ups was going to get his neighbour to come along too so they could go and vote together and would explain how it worked on the way.

There is no way you would get this kind of outcome from dropping off a letter in Cleveland's mailbox. It was a good lesson in the power of one-to-one communication and it demonstrated in rich detail the theory behind Obama's campaign: if you as an organiser or volunteer can build a connection with a voter, and together you can understand each other's values and experiences, and you can share a little something of yourself and why you support a particular candidate or party, you're well on your way to building support for your candidate and party.

That's why Adam's campaign for Melbourne is built around some of these same principles – we're organising a solid people-powered grassroots effort, in true Greens' tradition, to counter the deep pockets and big advertising spends of the old parties. We're building a team of 360 volunteers to make sure we've got polling day totally covered. If each of those people can do just 10 hours over the course of the final 10 weeks of the campaign, we'll have surpassed the 3250 volunteer hours we need to knock on the thousands of doors and make the thousands of calls to reach enough of the voters of Melbourne to shift the 5,000 new votes we need to win this campaign. That will go a long way in inoculating our campaign from the impact of the old parties colluding on preferences and the media locking us out of debate.

You are our message. If you can really listen to people about what matters to them and articulate why it is you support Adam and the Greens, then we've done half the work. We know Adam and his Greens' colleagues have a solid track record and a suite of fully-costed policies to show that we've got the courage to stand up to the big mining companies and powerful interests and do what it takes to build a clean economy and caring society.

If we Greens are going to run effective campaigns that build our electoral power so we can see our positive vision and practical plans implemented, we need them to be engaging and compelling campaigns. I'm looking forward to the days when we get to organise 15,000-strong rallies for our leader to address with just 4 days' notice; and free concerts with the likes of our own Stevie Wonder or Bruce Springsteen (perhaps Uncle Archie Roach and Paul Kelly?) so we can get people literally dancing to the polls. If that sounds like your kind of campaign, get yourself to Melbourne ahead of election day and let's see what we can do together. Sign up at adambandt.com/volunteer or donate today if you can't make it. ▲

Sam La Rocca is Adam Bandt's Chief of Staff and was awarded an Australian Political Exchange Council individual study scholarship to represent the Greens in the US in 2012.

When did you first volunteer for a Green's Election Campaign and what was your role?

I think I first volunteered for a Greens' election campaign when I was 15 during the 2004 election. My parents and I handed out how to vote cards at the perennially short-staffed Altona booth in Melbourne – home to our former Prime Minister, Julia Gillard.

What role do you normally play in an election campaign and what does this involve?

My role during election campaigns remained much the same while in Melbourne – the same booth, handing out 'how to votes'. However, since moving to Tasmania last year I have become a much more active electioneer.

My girlfriend and I joined the newly assembled 'Tasmanian Young Greens' and helped Penelope Ann who was running for council by letterboxing flyers in the neighbourhood. In the lead up to the Legislative Council elections, I door knocked for Tom Baxter and handed out flyers at the university where he is a lecturer.

Why do you think it is important for members and supporters to volunteer during election campaigns?

I think volunteering during election campaigns is an extremely healthy and rewarding exercise for any Greens supporter or volunteer. In particular the one-on-one contact, whether handing out cards on election day or knocking on doors, is something that I would encourage people to do. Starting up a conversation with a complete stranger is initially a daunting prospect, but people are overwhelmingly polite, fair-minded and friendly, although frequently vague.

What is your best/most memorable experience while volunteering for a Greens election campaign?

Election day for the Legislative Council seat of Nelson. The campaign had been dominated by the push for marriage equality in Tasmania; so, it's a bit cheesy, but on election morning I opened my door to go and vote and, from my door, the electorate of Nelson appeared to be dwarfed by a gigantic rainbow. An auspicious sign, I thought (and subsequently tweeted). However it was unfortunately not to be, with Tom Baxter losing narrowly!

What is your hope for the 2013 Federal Election?

It seems the best we can hope for is to hold on to the (considerable) gains that The Greens have made during previous elections. Personally, I hope that we hang on to the balance of power in the senate and prevent a future government from easily winding back climate change policies.



The Power of the Polling Booth Campaigner

AS WE GET READY TO PUT IN THE LONG HOURS OF CAMPAIGNING IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS LEADING UP TO ELECTION DAY, **CHILLA BULBECK** LOOKS AT WHY VOLUNTEERING AT THE POLLING BOOTH COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU THOUGHT.

Greens members and supporters know the importance of a Greens' presence at the polling booth. Experienced workers tell stories of how they increased the vote by 20% in the far-flung booth of 'Outer Wageroo' by handing out "how to vote" cards all day. We know that a handful of voters come with little knowledge of the issues and we believe that a smile and a slogan might win them over. Our placards might be fewer in number but our Greens flags mounted on long poles fly proudly in the breeze. We are trained in the one sentence that might be all a hurrying voter allows us, for example 'consider voting Green in the upper house ... and please put your 'how to vote' cards in our recycling box provided'.

At the WA State election in March, we conducted an exit poll of voters. The results surprised even experienced party members. One third of Greens voters made up their minds at the polling booth (twice the proportion of voters for the old parties). This is partly a function of age. Younger voters are more likely to vote Greens and be swinging voters; older voters are more likely to vote Liberal and be rusted on. This means that Greens voters, more so than voters for the old parties, must be wooed anew at each election, including on election day.

We should be more imaginative about how we present ourselves at polling booths. As Katarina Walker, one of the booth workers in Mandurah* pointed out, "all the workers dress in t-shirts – the only difference is the colour and the logo. Why don't we consider wearing large green sun hats, sparkling green suits, green onesies even?" Why do all the parties have placards of the same size and basic message (but ours are in such comparatively paltry numbers)? At least our placards could prominently announce 'made from recycled core flute', denoting the hours we spend ripping off the old posters and sticking on the new ones. By contrast, on my booth at the end of the day, the Liberal team filled half a skip in the school yard with their core flute placards and other election advertising.

We assume that voters do not walk into polling booths seeking additional information, and so give them a standard 'how to vote' card. These preconceptions were revealed in an exchange at

the pre-polling booth in Mandurah. As a young man approached, the Labor, Liberal and Greens booth workers fell upon him with our materials. He looked at the Liberal's A4 glossy sheet with its 'how to vote' locally and photo of the candidate on one side and on the other side 'how to vote' everywhere else. 'Where's your policies?' he asked, 'I want to collect information, go home and think about it and come back and vote another day'. While the Liberal and Labor workers looked nonplussed, this was one moment when it was good to be a one person campaign team. I dived into my bulging backpack and gave him a concertina which summarized our policies and a card introducing our upper house candidate, Giz Watson. I had these with me as I would be door-knocking later that afternoon. I pointed to our website address for further information. This incident is unusual: but possibly more for its explicit exposure of a voter who is still seeking information as he or she enters the booth than for the fact that voters come to the polling booth in this state of agnosticism.

Our 'how to vote' cards assume that voters have already made up their minds. Or, if not, a smile and a slogan will persuade them. We are missing an opportunity to deliver and discuss more substantial information, leaflets containing our policies, QR codes on our HTVs and our booth placards, HTV solar powered screens showing u-tube videos: let your imagination fly!

Polling day is more important than we previously imagined. So is staffing pre-polling booths with around one in five voters voting before the election. Put your hand up by contacting your state or regional booth co-ordinator or your state Greens office. Make a day of it if you can, but come armed with information on why people should vote Green. This is your chance to increase the Greens vote by one third! ▲

**The state electorate of Mandurah is a 40 minute train ride south of Perth – and up to two hours on the freeway.*

Chilla Bulbeck is the Greens (WA) Secretary, Green Issue co-editor, Convenor of Donor Relations Working Group, Co-convenor of Election Research Working Group and one-time



GREENS GIVE A GONKSI

AT THE TIME OF WRITING NSW, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND THE ACT HAVE SIGNED UP TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S GONSKI REFORMS.

RACHEL JACOBS EXPLORES WHAT GONSKI IS AND WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT.

Gonski is the nickname given to a report into primary and secondary education funding by the Federal Government. The report, completed in December 2011, was undertaken by prominent businessman David Gonski, who is now chair of the Future Fund.

The report is nothing short of revolutionary. Gonski highlighted the frightening level of inequality in our schools. It recognises something we in the Greens have known for a long time: that students in need don't get funding parity and the current funding models are inequitable. It also addresses declining standards, measured by international benchmarks in numeracy and literacy. David Gonski's report recommends that every student have a guaranteed level of funding and that funding addresses the needs of disadvantaged students – whatever school they are at. The phrase used to describe Gonski is 'sector-blind'. The report isn't about public vs private or punishing private and religious schools. Rather, the report recognises the diversity that exists in our education system and recommends that funding, based on need, follows students to whichever system they are in.

However, Gonski was bastardised from day one. Some independent schools were scared of losing their funding and the Catholic sector expressed concern that their funding would not match increases to state schools. The Prime Minister quickly promised that no school would be worse off. Gonski also became a political tool for Labor to talk about one of its perceived strong points - education. But it's a good time to remind ourselves that the most questionable changes to education, for example the introduction of the 'My School' website, happened under Labor leadership, and are now under investigation in an enquiry led by our Greens Senator Penny Wright.

So why do the Greens support Gonski? Despite its flaws, this is a once-in-a-generation chance to lift education funding for everyone. It means repaired classrooms, support staff, technology is serviced and ongoing professional development for teachers. It means funding to support indigenous students, students with special needs and students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

It's also a statement that we are taking education seriously enough to fund it properly.

The Greens and Labor are on the same side of this fight, to a point. Despite Labor's self-appellation as the

'Education Party' they plan to partly fund Gonski with money promised to the University sector. 2014 was supposed to be the year that funding was returned to 1996 levels. Now, the 1996 parity has been pushed back to 2017. This is both bad policy and bad economics. Australia is one of the wealthiest countries in the world at the wealthiest point of time in history. We can afford to fund Gonski and universities at the same time. We can afford to fund TAFE and the vocational sector properly as well. Greens MPs have shown a multitude of ways to find these funds, but the government lacks the political will to see it done.



I've been a teacher at state schools, Catholic schools and independent schools and I've seen first hand where this money will go. I now lecture in teacher education; training the next generation of teachers. I can see where the cuts to universities are going to hurt, and I believe in better education for all Australians and know that you don't fund one education sector by cutting another. June 30 is the deadline for states to sign up and we will only get Gonski if everyone is on board. For those who live in Queensland, WA and Victoria it's time to get active in the Gonski campaign. Barry O'Farrell in NSW has shown that a Liberal premier can commit to a better school funding model. It's time to put politics aside and put our schools, teachers and children first. ▲

Rachael Jacobs is the Greens candidate for Brisbane



NETWORKED FOR THE FUTURE?

PLANS FOR A NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK UNDER THE COALITION WILL MEAN REDUNDANT AND OBSOLETE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WILL FAIL MISERABLY TO MEET AUSTRALIA'S DIGITAL NEEDS INTO THE FUTURE, WRITES **SENATOR SCOTT LUDLAM**. JUST ANOTHER REASON WHY WE NEED GREENS HOLDING THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE SENATE.

The Coalition's alternative broadband policy released in April is 'planned obsolescence' on a vast scale, and will deliver a rehashed ALP broadband policy from 2009.

The Coalition finally came out with its first detailed policy - and it's a farce.

Tony Abbott ordered shadow communications minister Malcolm Turnbull to "demolish" the National Broadband Network (NBN) and the Coalition has taken that literally.

We need long-term vision, nation-building infrastructure that will meet Australia's needs for future generations, not cheapskate measures that will cost the community, the economy, and the Treasury more in the long run.

The concept of installing tens of thousands of powered cabinets on street corners around the country will leave existing customers stranded on obsolete copper while new estates get glass fibre installed.

The Coalition is continuously playing politics with policy, which is why we need Greens holding the balance of power in the Senate to keep a check on Abbott's ridiculous plans and to stand up with a strong alternative voice.

This highlights why it is vital to keep a strong Greens presence in the Senate to protect the NBN - more Coalition seat-warmers will demolish the progress on infrastructure reform, setting Australia back decades.

The Coalition's technically inferior proposal is based on an out-dated and degraded copper network, which is enormously expensive to maintain and vulnerable

to weather events.

This approach was explicitly rejected in 2009 prior to the Government's announcement of the fibre-to-the-home project, because it would be obsolete on the day it was built.

Remote and regional communities in Australia need fast and reliable broadband. We support the NBN because it will deliver this much needed service - boosting local business, community organisations, and education and health services.

With the Coalition generating headlines with imaginary cost figures for the NBN, attention should not be diverted from the very real problems in rolling out the NBN.

Telstra appears to have let the public down badly by not giving NBN Co a full understanding of the problem posed by asbestos in its infrastructure. This highlights yet another symptom of the tremendously flawed privatisation of Telstra carried out by the Coalition when they were last in Government.

The company should come clean on its revised targets, but the last thing we need is to revisit a massively flawed concept that was rejected on good grounds.

The Coalition's broadband policy is faster to install and cheaper for a reason: it provides a quick fix that it won't take long for us to regret. ▲

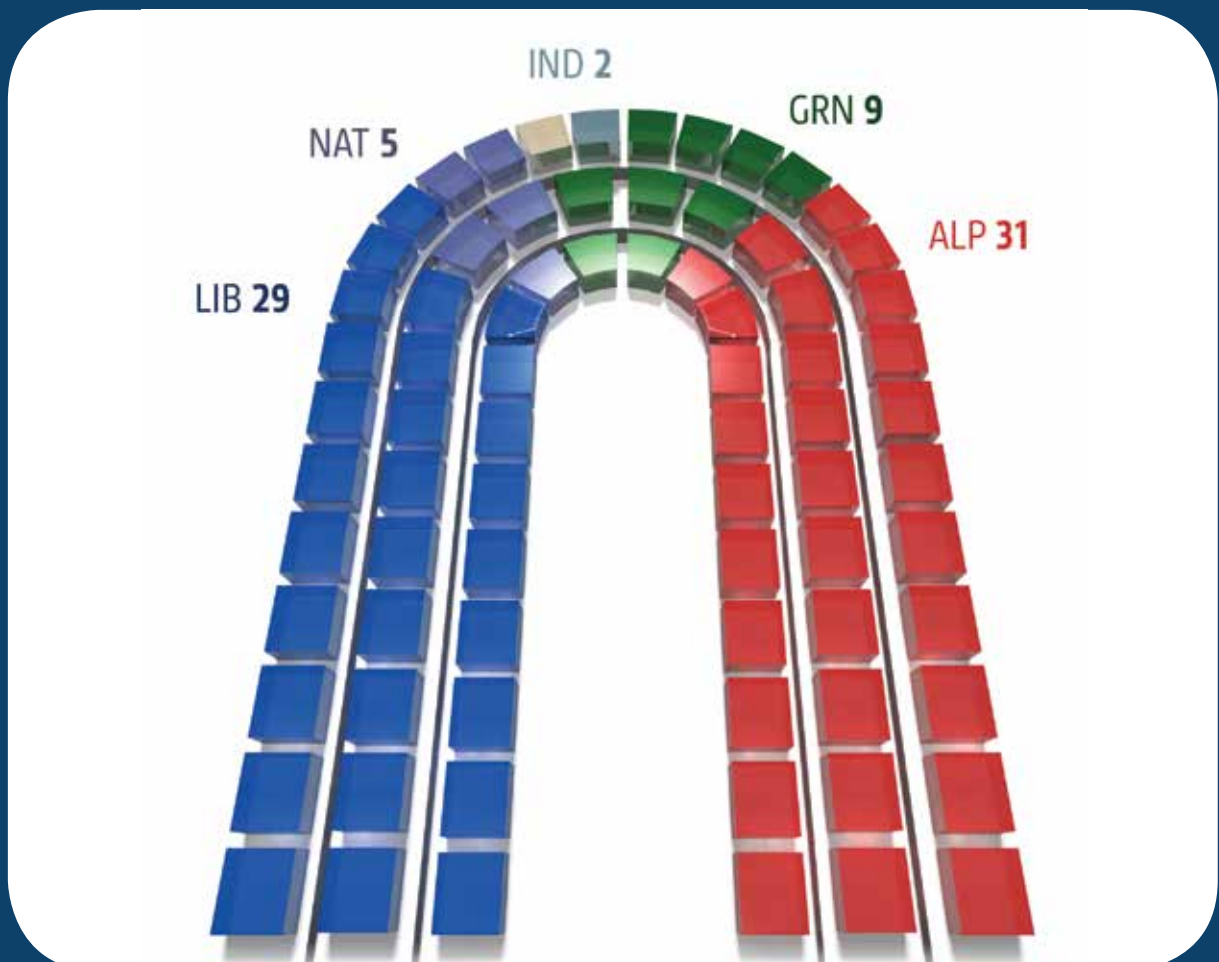
*Senator for Western Australia Scott Ludlam
Australian Greens communications spokesperson*

THE SENATE AT STAKE

TONY ABBOTT'S COALITION HAS 34 SENATORS
THEY WILL NEED 39 SENATORS TO TAKE COMPLETE CONTROL OF PARLIAMENT
IF THEY WIN GOVERNMENT AT THIS ELECTION.
WITH 38 & THE SUPPORT OF THE CONSERVATIVE
DLP SENATOR - THE IMPACT IS THE SAME.

FOUR MORE COALITION SENATORS WOULD MEAN A DRAMATICALLY REDUCED ROLE FOR SENATE INQUIRIES, NO CHECKS, NO BALANCES, NO NEGOTIATIONS - IT WILL MEAN TOTAL COALITION CONTROL OF POWER.

ONLY THE GREENS CAN PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING.



YOU CAN SHARE THIS IMAGE TO EXPLAIN WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO VOTE GREEN THIS ELECTION



BOLD CAMPAIGNING; SMART NEGOTIATING

How to protect the environment

TIM HOLLO DESCRIBES EFFECTIVE WAYS THE GREENS HAVE PROTECTED THE ENVIRONMENT

James Price Point protected; Tasmania's World Heritage Area extended; a price on pollution and \$13 billion for renewable energy! National Parks, Kangaroo Island and coal seam gas all on the political agenda. How did that happen at a time when our political debate is overwhelmingly dominated by mining corporations and their lobbyists?

Six words: Greens using balance of power well.

The last three years of minority government have demonstrated how, even in an anti-environmental atmosphere, with a Labor government stuck in the old world order and a Liberal opposition actively antagonistic, the Greens can deliver excellent outcomes by pairing bold campaigning with smart negotiating.

Yes, we're losing a lot at the moment to rampant mining companies and Liberal and Labor governments whose instincts are to cave in at the expense of future generations. So it's important to celebrate our achievements, learn from how we've won, and show people how important it is to keep the Greens in balance of power, to protect our wins and drive much more action to protect this planet of ours.

Let's look at James Price Point and the now shelved plan to destroy priceless Aboriginal heritage and endanger precious wildlife by building an LNG plant on top of it.

There had been a wonderful local campaign for years, but many people said it was a campaign too hard to win. James Price Point was too far away. The Indigenous community was split. Woodside was too powerful, particularly with the Barnett government in Western Australia so firmly behind it. But Bob Brown, Rachel Siewert, Scott Ludlam and Christine Milne did what was right. They joined with the campaigners who were working so hard day in and day out on the ground and used their national clout to drive this campaign onto the national agenda.

Working with the local community and national NGOs, using several visits by high profile parliamentarians, not shying away from the debate in

the Indigenous community but clearly articulating a position, and mobilising our support base, the Greens played a critical role in lifting James Price Point from a distant corner of our country to a central role in our environmental debate. Vitally, the MPs used their position in parliament to drive it onto the political agenda. Question after question in Question Time and Senate Estimates; Matter of Public Importance debates; raising it in meetings with the government at the highest level. This became an iconic issue for the Greens, emblematic of the national battle to return environmental protection to its rightful place in our politics.

In the end, James Price Point wasn't won (so far) by government decree but because the company saw that it wouldn't win. But the Greens' role in making it a political battle as well as a public one cannot be overstated.

At the same time, the Tasmanian forests debate was bitterly divided. Many in the movement had found themselves corralled into negotiations where they felt they could not publicly campaign for maximum protection, and thus were losing ground badly. The old guard in the Tasmanian logging industry had stepped up efforts to derail the original agreement that aimed to shift away from reliance on native forest logging and develop an exit strategy for the workers caught in a collapsing industry.

As the negotiations mired and drifted, Christine Milne and Bob Brown seized a window of opportunity on one pivotal issue. Working with Tasmanian Greens MPs, conservation groups and the federal government, they focussed on extending the World Heritage Area that they had defended for decades. And they succeeded. Once again, the Greens were able to combine bold campaigning with smart negotiating to deliver by far the biggest victory for Tasmania's forests in years.

More broadly, the national campaign the Greens have built to bring environmental protection back to the political agenda – Too Precious To Lose – is having



an impact. While we are not yet winning, we are already ensuring that those who wish to sweep aside all environmental protection and destroy our precious country in the name of a quick buck aren't getting it all their way.

By actively taking on the most powerful lobbyists in the country and newly ascendant right wing governments, setting our sights both on what we know is necessary and what we think is achievable, by using beautiful, powerful, emotional imagery, by pursuing sensible and reasonable parliamentary solutions, and by engaging our passionate supporter base, the Greens are preventing Gina Rinehart, Clive Palmer, Campbell Newman and their cohorts from riding roughshod over what is Too Precious To Lose. We've put Kangaroo Island, National Parks, the Tarkine and much more on the agenda, and we'll keep it there.

Of course, the biggest environmental achievement by far, not only this term but for decades, is the climate protection package delivered by the Greens. Against expectations, we put a price on pollution that is already cutting our emissions and making coal power less competitive; we put independent scientific advice in a key ongoing role through the Climate Change Authority; we delivered billions of dollars in funding to energy efficiency and 'green' carbon in the landscape, and we created the biggest ever funding package for renewable energy.

We must never forget how this happened.

Against advice from cautious campaigners, we rejected Kevin Rudd and Malcolm Turnbull's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) that would have

locked in coal power for decades and made it impossible to meet what the science says is necessary. With our heads held high, we went to the 2010 election not just defending that decision but with a platform for radical climate action – pricing pollution with a science-based target and moving to 100% renewable energy as quickly as possible. And we won a tremendous mandate from that election, voters putting us in balance of power in both houses of parliament.

Not letting up for a second, Christine Milne and Bob Brown negotiated a deal with Labor, who went to the 2010 election promising to go slow on climate change by delivering only a "people's assembly" to work together towards a clear outcome. They then did the hard yards, negotiating for many months while working with members and supporters to keep the pressure on Labor to stay at the table. When all Labor wanted was to replicate the CPRS, the result the Greens delivered cannot be overstated.

This is how the Greens win. We drive the debate by leading the way, by pushing the envelope, by demanding what we know is necessary, not what we think is achievable or politic. And we negotiate sensibly and smartly in the room while keeping the pressure up on the outside.

We know where we're going and we know what we're doing. Now our challenge is to protect what we've achieved and go much further. That's why we need a strong, bold campaign to keep the balance of power. ▲

Tim Hollo is a member of the ACT Greens and former Communications Director for Christine Milne.

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Digital Tools

IT HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT TO HARNESS DIGITAL TOOLS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE GREENS. BUT HOW DO YOU MAKE SURE THAT THESE TOOLS DON'T OVERSHADOW THE GRASS-ROOTS, FACE TO FACE CAMPAIGNING THAT SETS THE GREENS APART FROM THE OLD PARTIES AND WINS VOTES? **DAVID PARIS** EXPLORES SOME LESSONS FROM THE US IN HOW TECHNOLOGY CAN SUPPORT A POWERFUL CAMPAIGN, AND WHAT THE GREENS CAN LEARN FROM THIS.

A major part of the 2012 US Presidential election – and perhaps the biggest lesson and opportunity for the Australian Greens – was how the Obama for America (OfA) campaign made the Democratic Party complete their evolution into a digitally empowered organisation.

For campaign and advocacy groups that arose in the digital era, digital systems are a part of the culture, sometimes even the reason for the existence of the organisation. For political parties and NGOs that are older than the modern internet, the challenge has been to incorporate digital tools to augment the activities that they've always done well, and not attempt to substitute those tools for more effective human solutions.

Howard Dean's 2004 Presidential Primary campaign revolutionised political fundraising. Frequent small electronic donations were just as important as major donors contributing one-off large sums. In 2008 Barack Obama's team incorporated those lessons, and began using digital tools to enable more face-to-face contacts with voters than any campaign before it.

2012 saw the third piece of the puzzle fall into place: 'big data'. The success of 2008 disguised a major weakness in the Obama for America machine. Every campaign office used different systems, with little or no integration with the broader team. Field offices could not benefit from the work done in a neighbouring city or state.

This shortcoming was tackled at the earliest stages of the 2012 campaign. All systems were built atop the one central data hub they christened 'Narwhal' and all available information was fed into it. Polling results, demographic statistics, social media analysis, past election behaviour and any other information acquired by the campaign was added as it came in. Campaign applications – such as Dashboard, the one stop shop for field office organisers, and the Call Tool that connected volunteers with the voters they were best suited to persuade – interfaced with Narwhal, as did the websites and the social media applications.

The infrastructure at the heart of the system needed to be supremely reliable. OfA recruited engineers with experience from large organisations like Facebook, Google and Amazon who had the skills to build and scale up systems quickly. They relied heavily on state of the art but proven technology. Redundancies were built into everything. When the threat of Hurricane Katrina loomed, the team replicated their entire North Virginia data system over to a West Coast data centre with no loss in service. In the 583 days between the



commencement of the system build and Election Day the systems suffered less than 30 minutes of downtime.

All major campaign decisions were based on information provided by Narwhal. Everything from where to put a campaign field office, to where to best direct advertising spending, to which demographics to target on social media was determined by data. The instincts of career political operators gave way to

tangible information. Assumptions were discarded, theories were tested, actions were analysed and improvements were rapidly incorporated.

Digital systems played a part in every aspect of the 2012 OfA campaign, but they were never a substitute for more effective human measures. The governing philosophy of all systems development was to facilitate as much direct voter contact as possible. The ideal contact with a potential voter was a face to face conversation. The next best was a phone call. Digital organising tools made those contacts much more efficient, but electronic communications were not used in place of that human contact. Facebook, email, SMS and other electronic communications were used if something more personal was not possible, or as an avenue to subsequently make it possible.

Digital tools and systems made each and every staff member and volunteer more capable and more efficient – a 'force multiplier' as several reports described it. And it was this mustering of people power that ultimately led OfA to a resounding victory on November 6.

"You can't just make a difference through tech alone. You can't just send e-mails and make robocalls and do stuff on Facebook—the real persuasion is going to happen when a real person is talking to a real person." – Obama for America Senior Engineer Clint Ecker.

There are lessons, opportunities and challenges here for the Australian Greens. We take pride in our evidence-based policy, but how good are we at evidence-based campaigning? How do we ensure we have effective targeted communications in line with our principled stand on privacy? We need to innovate but be inclusive; our tools must empower our members and volunteers, not frustrate them. But most of all, our technology must assist us to have more face-to-face conversations with people, not less. ▲

For the past three years David Paris has been the Digital Communications Coordinator for the Leader of the Australian Greens. He visited the USA in October and November 2012 as part of the Australian Political Exchange Council Program.

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Candidate Profile



Janet Rice

My journey to becoming the Victorian Lead Senate Candidate began on a mild afternoon when I was 20 and studying climate science at Uni. I vividly remember coming out of a lecture having just learnt about global warming. There were people around me going about their normal lives, sitting in the sun, and I was thinking: this is serious. We need action.

That moment I realised scientific knowledge wasn't enough. I became an activist rather than a scientist.

I spent most of my twenties as a forest campaigner, one of the leaders of the successful campaign for new national parks in East Gippsland. Then we were sold out by Labor – something more and more people have experienced. That was it. I threw myself into starting The Greens in Victoria and have been involved in building the party ever since.

Six years on Maribyrnong Council, including a year as Mayor, was another pivotal period. My passion for a fair go for all blossomed. I was outraged by injustices like kids from poor families missing out on opportunities my kids had. I worked to build and support the framework of a more caring society: campaigning to save our local swimming pool, supporting our libraries, community centres, services for refugees, new mothers, people of all abilities; creating spaces and opportunities for people to come together and be involved and active in community life. And I built a reputation as an outspoken advocate for people-friendly green development and safe streets where people could get around by walking, cycling, and public transport.

It's all hands-on experience that I bring to this election campaign.

I've been campaigning fulltime all year. I've been meeting our candidates and campaign teams across the state (travelling mostly by public transport and bike) attending public events, speaking at rallies and meetings. I'm thriving on meeting people, hearing their stories. From fighting coal seam gas in Gippsland to speaking out about the cuts to Uni funding, we're working on it. And I'm loving it.

And I know how important this campaign is. If an Abbott government is elected, a Green team with balance of power in the Senate will be critical in holding the line on so much that we care about. I'm up for it; ready to take the next steps in my journey, doing what I can towards a greener, more caring world.

Supporting Single Parents

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SINGLE PARENTS, JOBSEEKERS AND OTHER PEOPLE ON PAYMENTS LIKE NEWSTART AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE ARE STRUGGLING AS THEY CONTINUE TO LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE. **SENATOR RACHEL SIEWERT** EXPLORES THE IMPACT OF THESE CUTS AND HOW THE GREENS ARE PROPOSING TO RIGHT THE WRONGS.

A broad range of evidence – including personal experiences, reports from the community sector and Parliamentary inquiries shows us that payments like Newstart and Youth Allowance are totally inadequate to survive on. The Government has long known of this inadequacy. However this has not prevented the Government, together with the support of the Coalition, to move onto Newstart those sole parents originally grandfathered from John Howard's welfare to work reforms: thus joining other single parents already living in poverty.

We have stood up for this group of parents ever since John Howard first introduced the welfare to work changes, and likewise we opposed this Government's changes when the policy was announced in the 2012 budget.

We're now continuing to grow our campaign to support single parents as we head to the upcoming election.

Dumping single parents onto Newstart has had many adverse impacts on families. A recent Salvation Army client survey reported a 12% increase in people on Newstart seeking their services: which they directly attributed to these cuts.

Despite the fact that between \$60 and \$120 per week has been taken out of single parent household budgets, I have confirmed through Senate Estimates that the Government still isn't undertaking a monitoring process to ensure the impacts of this policy are understood. From the outset, the older parties haven't cared about the impact this policy would have on single parents or their children, and it doesn't appear likely that this will change.

Through our work on this issue, we have had contact with thousands of people who are affected by, or have concerns about, the impact of these cuts.

The most distressing aspects of these letters, emails and conversations are those outlining the personal impacts; families going hungry, children missing out at school, and parents not being able to afford clothes for growing kids.

There are accounts of people feeling ashamed to

approach emergency relief agencies, people having to move house because they can't afford the rent and parents having to increase work hours, withdraw from their studies and miss out on time with the kids.

We have been campaigning as hard as we can on this issue. There have been events and rallies across the country, and there's a terrific community on social media supporting and discussing these issues. We can make our campaign materials available and we have produced a book of personal accounts and presented them to Minister Shorten outlining the heavy toll that this policy is taking.

We've also undertaken a range of parliamentary work, including the initiation of a Senate Inquiry into Newstart and into the legislation itself. These inquiries enabled individuals and organisations from around the country to participate and share their views on this issue. The Newstart Inquiry found that the payment was inadequate, but even this has not been enough to cause the older parties to rethink their approach.

I have introduced two key pieces of legislation into the Parliament to address the inadequacy of Newstart and to boost income support to single parents. We know there is a problem, and we're working hard to fix it.

Our Bills will increase Newstart by \$50 per week and make sure it is indexed in the same way as the aged pension so that payments follow cost of living increases. We will also create a supplement payment of \$40 a week for single parents on Newstart with children under 16. This will apply to all single parents on Newstart, including those affected by the 2012 legislation and those who were put on Newstart by the original John Howard legislation.

Our bills enact a range of measures that have been called for by people across the community sector, economists, unions, and business leaders.

Labor and the Coalition need to start addressing the widespread concerns of the community. We will continue to make this an election issue and I'm proud that we are heading there with the strength and vision to help people doing it tough. ▲

PROTESTING THE CUTS TO SINGLE PARENT PAYMENTS AROUND SOUTH AUSTRALIA; OUTSIDE THE OFFICE OF NICK CHAMPION MP. PHOTOS BY SHERREE CLAY.





WHEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CUT WELFARE PAYMENTS OF THOUSANDS OF SINGLE PARENTS EARLIER THIS YEAR BY MOVING THEM ONTO THE LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENT, NEWSTART, THE ISSUE WAS IMMEDIATELY PICKED UP BY THE GREENS AND HAS BEEN HIGH ON THE AGENDA EVER SINCE. BUT WHAT IS THE REAL IMPACT OF THESE CUTS? **SHERREE CLAY** SHARES WITH READERS THE VERY REAL EFFECT THESE CHANGES HAVE HAD ON HER AND HER FAMILY.

My Name is Sherree Clay and I am a single parent. Last year I was studying to finish my year 12 education and I had my future planned out; I was to finish year 12 and go onto university, study part time and find part time work, and then once my kids were grown up I would apply for the Antarctic division in Antarctica as a geologist. I worked so hard to achieve this; I volunteered at the State drill core library in my spare time, I applied for all holiday courses, and I was lucky enough to be selected as one of 17 students to complete the state government geosciences summer school run by the Department of Primary Industries and Resources of South Australia.

When I heard about the cuts I realized I couldn't afford to study as long as I had planned so I decided to try and fast track myself by applying at TAFE for a qualification in geology so I could have the experience to work in the field while studying at Uni part time (if I went through TAFE I could start uni at second year level).

I was accepted into TAFE, however I quickly realised that I was required to be there full time (five days a week). I also realised that my childcare fees had increased 1000% in price. I decided to add up what my losses would be; with the Jobs, Education and Training increase, the Pensioner Education Supplement cut, and the switch to Newstart the total loss to my income was \$311.14 a fortnight. There was no way I could study five days a week and cover costs without working. I could not find evening or weekend childcare so I made the heartbreaking decision to leave my studies and try to find work. I cried a lot about this. I just want to be a geologist; it was and still is my true passion and something I care greatly about.

Around this time, I discovered a group called Single Parents Action Group. I made a decision; I could sit back and continue to cry about this or I could stand up and fight. Everything that was happening to single

parents was so wrong and I felt I had to contribute to making a change and finding fairness for vulnerable families. I became a national coordinator of this group and although it was volunteer work it gave me a sense of worth and hope. I am now the South Australian State Coordinator.

I learned that there are thousands of single parents like myself out there. Some have had to leave their studies, some have lost their homes, some have had to move back in with their parents, and some have had to give up their children. Working parents and studying parents were hit hard. 90% of these single parents are women and many feel angry and betrayed that a female Prime Minister would condemn their families to poverty. Many were angered further to learn all this happened on the day of the famous misogyny speech.

Some do not have as much support as others; single parents have succumbed to depression, anxiety, emotional breakdowns and some have even committed suicide leaving behind heartbroken children.

I think a lot of us struggle with the increased social stigma; the disgusting and degrading comments about single parents and feel the government has condemned us to this discrimination and constant vilification which, even for a strong person like myself, is sometimes hard to cope with.

I know parents who sometimes go days without food just to make sure their children eat. They can't afford clothing, medicine, transport and school needs and they are socially isolated and publicly vilified.

The government must change this. It has created immense suffering and poverty and the ones bearing the full impact are the innocent children and our future generation. ▲

Sherree Clay is the South Australian State Coordinator for the Single Parents Action Group.



DOWN-PAYMENT ON DENTICARE

DELIVERING PUBLIC DENTAL CARE FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS WAS A CENTRAL PART OF THE GREENS AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT LABOR TO FORM GOVERNMENT. THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A DOWN-PAYMENT ON DENTICARE SHOWS HOW POWER SHARING GOVERNMENTS CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO PEOPLE'S LIVES WHEN PARLIAMENTARIANS WORK TOGETHER CONSTRUCTIVELY, WRITES **SENATOR RICHARD DI NATALE**. BUT THERE IS STILL WORK TO BE DONE BEFORE DENTAL CARE IS PART OF MEDICARE FOR EVERYONE.

Out-of-pocket healthcare costs in Australia are increasing at an alarming rate. For those of us who share an unyielding commitment to a health system that is high quality, equitable and truly universal this growing trend represents a serious threat to these core values. When I was in medical practice I saw first-hand the difference a few dollars could mean to the health of a patient. Patients would put off visits, fail to fill their prescriptions or drop out of treatment. Ultimately, we all bear the costs in terms of long term complications and decreased productivity.

There are many issues contributing to this problem and they are not all easy to fix. But the Greens do have a plan to deal with one of the most expensive and neglected areas of healthcare – dental treatment.

There is no medical reason to treat the mouth differently from the rest of the body. The fact that dental care isn't covered by Medicare is simply an historical artefact, an unfortunate remnant of the evolution of our health system through the 70s and 80s. The great majority of money spent on dental health comes straight from the pockets of consumers. When even a few dollars can influence patient decisions about their treatment, it is no surprise that the cost of a course of

treatment at the typical dentist is a huge obstacle to many in our community, who must then fall back onto the waiting lists of a chronically underfunded state system or merely go without. It's simply unacceptable that one in every three Australians avoids or delays going to the dentist because of the cost.

The consequences for the health system are dire. With over 60,000 potentially preventable hospital visits each year due to dental issues, and as many as one in ten GP visits related to dental neglect, the inequity in dental health is perhaps the clearest demonstration of increased out of pocket expenses compromising health.

The Greens believe that your health shouldn't be determined by your bank balance. For this reason the Greens have long championed Medicare-funded dental treatment and made it a health priority in this term of government. We made dental investment part of our agreement to support the Government and spent more than a year negotiating a package of reforms.

In the end we secured a big win for the community – 3.4 million Australian kids will soon have access to Medicare-funded treatment at their own dentist. This means that from January you will finally be able to take



your kids to the dentist just as easily as you take them to the GP.

We also helped low income adults by investing more than \$1.8 billion in the public dental system to bring down waiting lists and expand services. Building on this investment is an additional \$226 million of grants to fund dental chairs and bring more dentists to rural and remote areas.

This dental reform package would not exist if the Greens weren't in the balance of power. And while it is a solid down-payment, the Greens remain committed to a universal Denticare scheme where everyone can see a dentist as easily as they can see a doctor.

In a wealthy country like Australia, everybody has a right to decent dental care. I'm proud that the Greens have delivered a dental package that gives kids access to Medicare funded dental care and improves access to the public system for people on low incomes, but we won't stop fighting until dental care is part of Medicare for everyone. ▲

Do Something!



READ

To keep up to date with how the Greens are working toward better dental healthcare for Australians visit <http://greensmps.org.au/denticare>

Campaigner Profile



Iranthi Herath

When did you first volunteer for a Greens' Election Campaign and what was your role?

In the beginning of 2013. My role was to assist with research and help out with the (WA state) election campaigns.

What role do you normally play in an election campaign and what does this involve?

It varies from research to leafleting.

Why do you think it is important for members and supporters to volunteer during election campaigns?

Because I think it's important to understand how political campaigns work and how they effect change in government. Volunteering also helps grasp what other people think and to refine your political beliefs. Another important aspect is that you meet like-minded people with the same interests, so it is also a great way to build your network.

How will you be volunteering in the lead up to the 2013 federal election?

Unsure at this stage, but for sure I'll be involved in the campaign.

What is your best/most memorable experience while volunteering for a Greens election campaign?

At the last election, I met other Greens volunteers that were helping out at the polling place and I got the opportunity to have great conversations with like-minded people.

What is your hope for the 2013 Federal Election?

I hope that the 2013 Federal Election will focus less on party politics and more on things like the environment, focusing on closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, immigration and refugee issues, health, housing and human rights.

More specifically, I hope that people will be more aware of the fact that the Greens are much more than an environmental party. While promoting meaningful solutions, the Greens also focus on other areas such as closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage, immigration and refugee issues. The party also stands up for and encourages integrity, fairness and decency in all areas of politics.

A CARING SOCIETY DEMANDS A STRONGER MINING TAX

THE RECENT FEDERAL BUDGET WAS A CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE OLD PARTIES, WITH THEIR OBSESSION WITH BALANCING BUDGETS, AND THE GREENS WITH A VISION FOR A FAIRER, MORE CARING SOCIETY. **SENATOR LARISSA WATERS** DETAILS WHY NOW, MORE THAN EVER, IT IS TIME TO FIX THE MINING TAX.

Australia is not facing a budgetary crisis as Mr Abbott would have us believe; but if we want to close the widening gap between rich and poor, if we want a sustainable environment to future-proof our economy and quality of life, if we want infrastructure spending that gives us clean liveable cities, and if we want investment in education and innovation to meet the challenge of global warming, then we must be raising more revenue.

While the old parties are going down the path of cutting services, the Greens are offering an alternative. We recognise revenue must be raised and we want it to come from those who can afford it, including the big mining companies making billions from the resources we all own.

As Christine Milne said in her budget reply speech, “You cannot claim to be choosing a smarter Australia while cutting funding to research and development, universities and students to fund schools. You cannot claim to be addressing climate change while stripping millions from renewable energy and continuing to shovel billions of dollars into fossil fuel subsidies. And you cannot claim to be choosing a fairer Australia while condemning those who are unemployed to poverty.”

The budget was disappointing for many Australians for a number of reasons, including the failure of the government to increase the rate of Newstart and other income support payments to alleviate the enormous pressure faced by those who find themselves unemployed. Despite the overwhelming evidence that Newstart is too low and condemning people to poverty, and despite the stories of single parents struggling to survive on the paltry \$264 a week, and despite an alliance of community organisations and business calling for a \$50 a week increase, the government failed to increase Newstart by a single dollar. Allowing Newstart recipients to earn an extra \$19 a week was the Government's only concession to people facing some of the toughest times in their lives. Worse than that, Abbott then pledged to cut the payment.

Labor's failure to care for those on Newstart is compounded by their decision to finish the job of Howard's harsh Welfare to Work policy and move all single parents onto Newstart. This resulted in a cut of between \$60 to \$120 for single parents already struggling with tight household budgets.

Senator Rachel Siewert, our Communities portfolio holder, asked to hear from people about their experiences of living on income support. She received hundreds of responses detailing how people go without food, the difficulty of trying to get work with no money for transport or clothes, and having to choose which bills to pay. A recent Anglicare survey found there is close to zero affordable housing for people on Newstart around Australia.

The Greens believe that a caring and more socially just society must guarantee an adequate income safety net for all Australians and allow people to live with dignity. The complacency of the old parties to leave people to languish in poverty or trapped in debt is simply unacceptable.

Increasing Newstart and caring for single parents is an expensive policy. The new Parliamentary Budget Office has revealed that a \$50 a week increase in the single rate of Newstart and single 'living away' rate of the Youth Allowance will cost close to an extra \$2 billion a year. Giving single parents on Newstart an additional \$40 a week and allowing them the same





Simon Sheikh

work rights as the single parent pension will cost an additional \$360 million.

However, these costs could easily be met if Labor fixed the mining tax. The Treasurer said on budget night that budgets are about choices. The old parties have chosen the mining industry over addressing poverty in Australia.

The failure of the government's approach is no more obvious than in the revised revenue forecasts for the Minerals Resource Rent Tax (MRRT). The MRRT was supposed to be a tax that "spread the benefits of the boom" and yet it will raise only \$200 million in its first year. This is nothing less than an embarrassment for Labor.

It doesn't have to be this way. Australia is experiencing a mining boom. A well-designed mining tax will ensure the whole community benefits from the mining of our natural resources, not just multinational mining corporations.

Unfortunately, the MRRT introduced by the government is seriously flawed. It was negotiated together with three of the world's biggest mining companies by a government that failed to stand up for the interests of all Australians.

Labor claims its tax failed because of a drop in commodity prices. While it is true commodity prices have come off their record highs they are still at historically high prices. While the resource rent taxes profits, and the profits of mining companies have fallen somewhat, the government cannot explain how Rio Tinto made \$9 billion dollars from Australian iron ore last year and paid no mining tax.

The reality is that the mining tax has fundamental design flaws as a result of BHP, Rio and Xtrata running rings around the Treasurer and the willingness of the Prime Minister to cut a political deal at the expense of the community.

Labor has shown a lack of courage in this year's federal budget, and so has Mr Abbott in his budget reply. Unlike the old parties, the Greens are not afraid to stand up to the big mining corporations in the interests of us all. Revenue from a proper mining tax should be invested in caring for people by increasing Newstart by \$50 a week, bringing dental care into Medicare for everyone, and reversing the cuts to universities and students. These are investments for the future after the mining boom has run its course.

The Australian Greens are proposing the following reforms to the Minerals Resource Rent Tax:

- Increasing the rate to 40% from 22.5%. 40% is the rate already applied to oil and gas.
- Only paying rebate royalties in place at July 2011. Currently if a state government raises royalties the mining tax payable is reduced by this amount.
- Only allowing depreciation on the book value of the amounts actually spent on mining infrastructure. Currently the mining companies can depreciate the supposed value of the mine on the market, rather than what it cost them to build the mine (the book value). This has allowed the mining companies to use market value depreciation to dramatically reduce their taxes owing. This is a key flaw as to why the mining tax

Deciding to run for the Senate was not an easy decision for me and my wife Anna. But, this federal election there is so much at stake. Like many Australians, I am deeply concerned about the impact an Abbott-controlled Senate would have on all the progress the Greens have made over the past years.

I realised that if the Liberals win a Senate seat here in Canberra, Tony Abbott and his right-wing allies, like Clive Palmer, could have complete or effective control of both houses of Parliament. Such an outcome would leave them able to implement their extreme agenda – cutting jobs, cutting education funding, cutting renewable energy funding – with nobody holding them to account. I've spent the last five years of my life working for progressive change through GetUp, the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and other community groups, and I simply couldn't stand by and watch these important reforms be undone by an Abbott Government.

I believe that it is the government's job to help create a more caring society, not more inequality. After my sister passed away at age 11 from leukaemia, my mother slid into chronic mental illness and I became her primary carer. For most of my childhood my parents were out of work, we lived in public housing and sometimes struggled to make ends meet. This meant that I saw firsthand the impact that government systems can have on people's lives – both positive and negative. I saw that Government, when done well, could really help make people's lives better.

The Greens are not like the two major parties. While they're often busy fighting each other, we're standing up for what matters. Here in Canberra, we have a real chance of winning the crucial second ACT Senate seat and protecting everything we have worked so hard for, at a national scale. At the last election the Liberals in the ACT broke quota by just 38 votes and all indications locally point to the fact that we've got a real chance of stopping Tony Abbott getting control of the Senate here in the ACT.

We already have a wonderful team of volunteers here in Canberra who are doorknocking each weekend and building support in their communities. My experience at GetUp, the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and in other community campaigns tells me that grassroots, volunteer-driven campaigns are incredibly powerful - and that we can be successful this year here in Canberra.

Join us: www.simonsheikh.com



- has so far raised such a small amount of revenue.
- Extending coverage to all minerals, not just iron ore and coal.

This proposal was costed by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office before the 2013 federal budget and found these initiatives could raise an additional \$26 billion over four years.

When the MRRT was before the parliament, the Australian Greens moved amendments to fix the royalty loophole and extend the coverage of the tax to include gold and uranium. But the old parties failed to support these amendments.

In September last year we introduced the Mining Resource Rent Tax (Protecting Revenue) Bill 2012 again to fix the royalty loophole. We have also drafted amendments to redress the over-generous depreciation provisions.



In February 2013, Senator Milne moved to establish a Senate inquiry into the development and operation of the mining tax. The inquiry heard evidence from eminent economists including Ross Garnaut and John Quiggin who agreed with the Greens that there is no economic rationale not to extend the tax beyond coal and iron ore, and not to increase the current low rate. They also agreed that the royalties debacle and overly

generous depreciation provisions are fundamental flaws that need to be fixed.

Since the China boom the Australian mining industry has been making enormous profits; \$113 billion in 2011-12. In most cases commodity prices are much higher than assumed when mines were developed, so much of these profits represent 'windfall gains'. Around 80 per cent of these profits accrue to foreign shareholders and much of the remainder to wealthy Australians.

The mining lobby tries to argue that increasing taxes on the mining industry would lead to mines closing in Australia and investment being directed to Africa or South America. Such claims are nonsense. Both actual and expected investment in the Australian mining industry has reached new records in recent years with over \$250 billion of investment planned in the next few years. The Behre Dolbear Group, minerals industry advisors for over a century, have released an international comparison concluding that Australia is the best place in the world for mining investment, being particularly attractive for its political and economic stability, freedom, lack of corruption and speed in granting permits (revealing that the rhetoric about too much regulation also has no factual basis).

Contrary to their exaggerated claims, mining only employs two per cent of the labour force, significantly less than manufacturing, agriculture and tourism. In fact, mining jobs have been created at the expense of jobs in the tourism, agricultural and manufacturing sectors which have been hurt by the higher dollar, higher interest rates and skill shortages that the mining boom has created.

As Richard Denniss from the Australia Institute told the Senate inquiry, "The idea that what is good for mining is good for Australia and what is bad for mining is bad for Australia is simplistic nonsense."

The Australian Greens will stand strong against the mining industry and their million dollar advertising campaigns to do what is in the interest of all Australians. Our mineral wealth must be shared more equitably if we are to create a more caring Australia. ▲

TOP: TASMANIAN SINGLE PARENTS ACTION GROUP REPRESENTATIVE MAREE ADAMS SPEAKS TO THE RALLY IN HOBART; BELOW: ADAM AT THE SINGLE PARENTS ACTION GROUP VICTORIA RALLY IN MELBOURNE

Why We Ask.

JUST GOT ANOTHER EMAIL IN YOUR INBOX, OR LETTER IN THE POST ASKING FOR SOME OF YOUR HARD EARNED DOLLARS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GREENS' ELECTION CAMPAIGN? WONDERING WHY YOU SEEM TO BE GETTING THESE REQUESTS EVERY SECOND WEEK?

SUSAN SUSSEMS EXPLAINS WHY WE ASK.

The approximate cost to air a 30-second advertisement on prime time commercial TV (after 7:30pm):
\$35,000

The minimum number of times an ad needs to be seen to influence change in one person:
20 to 30

Some of us find it ugly and uncomfortable asking for donations. But whether we like it or not, mass advertising plays a key role in election campaigns. While Australia is yet to witness the volume of spending for campaigns at the U.S. level, Australians are subjected to weeks of saturation. Messages will be delivered to us via the radio, in the newspapers and on TV. And now social media has become an important medium for the messages of political parties.

We know that in order to cut through the noise generated by the old parties, we'll need to deliver a smart, strategic advertising campaign that will connect with voters across the country. Unless we speak directly to them, we can't guarantee they will hear an accurate presentation of our caring agenda and the positive difference we have already made through our parliamentary activities around the country.

We also know that the cost of these campaigns is astronomical. The old parties have massive budgets, and the resources to outspend us \$10 to \$1. While we know we cannot match them dollar for dollar. Past experience tells us that we must deliver a solid advertising campaign in the last fortnight of the election campaign – and to do this, we need at least \$3 million.

The old parties have massive budgets, and the resources to outspend us \$10 to \$1. While we know we cannot match them dollar for dollar, we can be clever and strategic in our spending.

In the 2007 campaign, the Greens were looking good in the polls. At 11% in some polls, we were on track to be highly successful. However, in the last two weeks of the campaign, the old parties had the finances to be able to drown us out. We know that in the final two weeks of that campaign, our vote dropped by 2%, leaving us with a swing of .6% in the House of



Representatives, and a swing of 1.38% in the Senate – just enough for us to gain one additional seat.

You may remember that in 2010 the Greens were the beneficiary of a very generous one off \$1.6 million donation from Wotif founder Graham Wood. This enabled us to deliver crucial messaging in those final two weeks of the campaign. The results of the 2010 election were unprecedented.

Our vote grew to 11%. We saw the election to the Senate of Larissa Waters in Queensland, Lee Rhiannon in New South Wales, Penny Wright in South Australia, and Richard Di Natale in Victoria.

We also made history with the first Green elected to the lower house in a general election, as Adam Bandt took the seat of Melbourne.

We have been fundraising for the 2013 election campaign since June last year and we are closing in on our ambitious target. And while we have a way to go, we can now get a start on our election advertising campaign for 2013.

In the crucial final two weeks of the election campaign, we know the old parties will certainly be aiming at each other and - more than ever - aiming at us. We have never been a bigger threat to them than we are now, and they know it. Thanks to our donors, we will be better prepared with a more effective and professional campaign than at any previous election.

This is why we ask. ▲

Susan Sussems is the Australian Greens National Fundraising Coordinator.

Christine's Column

THE GREENS ENTER THE 2013 ELECTION WITH A PLATFORM OF IDEAS THAT ARE FUTURE-FOCUSSED, INNOVATIVE, THOUGHTFUL AND FULLY COSTED. THIS IS AN OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AND THE RESULT OF MANY MONTHS OF WORK BY THE PARTY ON OUR POLICY REVIEW AND THE MPS' OFFICES ON OUR WIDE RANGE OF POLICY INITIATIVES.



As I write this, we have already announced some 30 policy initiatives, with more to come as the election draws closer.

Our work on coal-seam gas with federal and state MPs and local government has resulted in an initiative where we propose to: empower landowners to oppose drilling on their land; ensure federal environmental laws adopt the precautionary principle and take groundwater impacts into account (to be applied retrospectively in places such as Gloucester) and oppose new coal-seam gas projects.

I visited the Liverpool Plains and Moree in April together with NSW MPs Cate Faerhmann and Jeremy Buckingham to meet people affected by coal seam gas and coal mining on their land.

We have developed strong relationships with these landowners and communities who, just like the Wesley Vale farmers in Tasmania 25 years ago, recognise the Greens' work protecting farm land and water. Congratulations to farming groups, such as those led by Penny Blatchford and Tim Duddy, who are tireless campaigners for landowners against mining companies.

One of the comments that has stayed with me from my visits was from farmer Bill Hobson. He told me that he had spent 70 years of his life improving his land for agriculture and he never dreamed he'd have to spend the rest of his life defending it.

While we've had a good run in the regional media on our coal-seam gas work, we are not expecting overwhelming media coverage of our ideas during the election campaign as most outlets concentrate on the old parties.

That is where the power of the online world and our candidates and campaign volunteers come into play.

We look to our members and supporters to provide invaluable word-of-mouth support for our policy initiatives. This can be as simple as sharing on Facebook, talking about our policies to stakeholder groups, or using them when you doorknock or staff one of the hundreds of stalls set up in shopping strips around the country.

We truly are a grassroots party and it's the power of our members and supporters that helps to get our message out.

I can't count the number of people I've spoken to over the years who realise they are Greens supporters once they hear the details of our policies. The conversations you have with people are a critical part of our campaigning, whether in a formal situation or just chatting to a friend.

To go beyond our previous level of reach, we need all the

volunteers who staff stalls, letterbox brochures, erect corflutes, doorknock, help out at fundraisers, support candidates, and hand out how-to-vote cards to do it again, and to recruit others.



I am so grateful for all the time and passion you put into getting a good result. We are an exciting political party and our story needs to be broadcast far and wide.

As I travel around our great country, I am constantly humbled by the enormous effort you all put in and look forward to campaigning with you in this critically important election.



DIVEST FROM COAL AND CSG. YOUR MONEY CAN FUND A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE INSTEAD.



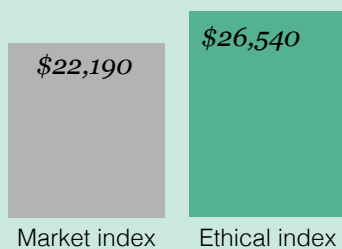
You may be surprised how your money is being invested. Take your superannuation for example. Most super funds do not ethically screen their investments, and as a result, you may be investing in companies involved in extracting coal seam gas, uranium or coal, old growth forest logging, tobacco and much more.

There are very few truly ethical funds; however Australian Ethical Super screens its investments both positively and negatively. It seeks out positive investments that support people, quality and sustainability. It avoids investments that cause unnecessary harm to people, animals, society or the environment.

What about performance?

It's a myth that you need to sacrifice returns to invest ethically.

The graph on the right shows the value of \$10,000 invested 10 years ago.*



Choose a better future! Go to australianethical.com.au to join (it only takes a few minutes), or call 1800 021 227 for more information.



* Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Returns are to end of 2012, and are calculated gross of any administration and investment management fees, tax, and other costs, and as if distributions of income had been reinvested at the actual distribution reinvestment price. 'Market Index' is the S&P/ASX300 index. 'Ethically Screened Index' is a theoretical index of the stocks within the S&P/ASX300 that pass Australian Ethical's positive and negative screens. Australian Ethical Investment Ltd ('AEI') ABN 47 003 188 930, AFSL 229949. Australian Ethical Superannuation Pty Ltd ABN 43 079 259 733 RSEL L0001441. A PDS is available from our website or by calling us and should be considered before making an investment decision. Australian Ethical® is a registered trademark of AEI.



PRE-ELECTION CHECKLIST

what we need you to do to keep parliament Green!

Our election campaign will only be a success because of people like YOU! You are our message. If you can listen to people about what matters to them and articulate why it is you support the Greens this can have as much impact as any advertisement and has the power to shift votes to the Greens.

volunteer



Sign up for volunteer opportunities as part of the election campaign.
<http://greens.org.au/volunteer>

Ways you can get involved:

- door-knocking
- making phone calls
- volunteering on stalls
- leafleting
- handing out how-to-vote cards on election day
- offer any special skills you have (IT, photography etc)
- general assistance in the office or with events



get informed

Sign up to your local branch or state or territory office for regular updates so you are the first to know about election campaign events and volunteer opportunities.



donate

Good campaigns need people AND money behind them.

The old parties accept millions of dollars in donations from big business every year. The Greens campaign relies on people like you.

Give your local office a call to donate much needed funds to the Greens election campaign or go online to <http://greens.org.au/donate>



enrol to vote

Make sure that any young people you know are enrolled to vote, and that you are correctly enrolled to vote. Every vote counts!

You can check your enrolment at <http://greens.org.au/enrol>



become a member

Sign up as a member if you are not already.

for further information

Visit <http://greens.org.au> or speak to someone in your State office:

ACT 02 6140 3220	QLD 07 3357 8458	VIC 03 9602 1141
NSW 02 9045 6999	SA 08 8212 4888	WA 08 9221 8333
NT 0402 617 416	TAS 03 6236 9334	

