

DON'T VOTE LIBERAL*

* OR LABOR, TREE-TORY GREENS, ONE NATION, FRASER ANNING'S CONSERVATIVE NATIONAL PARTY, UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, LOVE AUSTRALIA OR LEAVE AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIAN PROTECTIONIST PARTY, SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA, YELLOW VEST AUSTRALIA, KATTER'S AUSTRALIA PARTY, ANTI-VAXXERS, AUSTRALIAN BETTER FAMILIES, ETC.

HONI SOIT'S ELECTION MANIFESTO

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Make your vote count

House of Representatives:

This ballot contains a vertical list of candidates. This is compulsory, preferential voting. Every box must be numbered to reflect who you'd like to be elected. Don't be a galah: check you have not repeated or skipped any numbers.

Senate:

Quite a large piece of paper. You can either vote above or below the horizontal line. If you vote above the line, you need to at least number the boxes 1 to 6. If you vote below the line, you need to number at least 12 boxes. Do not number boxes both above and below the line.

Vote #1 the party you like the most, not who you think will get in. Giving a party your first preference gives them \$2.756! The Australian Electoral Commission funds parties that receive at least four per cent of the total first preferences in the election.

Honi suggests that after exhausting your preferences on ideologically admirable parties, you preference Labor above the Liberal party. Preference both above the sweep of racist, homophobic, ruling-class parties in this election, even less deserving of federal parliament.

Editorial

This edition is a biased analysis of issues relevant to the upcoming federal election, written by students with political positions.

When it comes to issues of rights for communities which have, at best, been ignored and, more realistically, been actively targeted by successive Labor and Coalition governments, there is no benefit tip-toeing some centrist path.

However, before any impassioned boot-licker looking to climb the party ladder feigns outrage, we remind them that merely pointing to the existence of possible bias does not undermine an argument. We refuse to take empty accusations of bias from the puppets of establishment politicians seriously.

In writing this, we aim to shed light on the self-assured hubris of career politicians whose conscience feeds on collective amnesia regarding the subjugation they have wrought. We hope that the article on First Nations policy reveals just some of the hypocrisy shared by members of parliament across all parties.

There are undoubtedly positive policies adopted by the Australian Labor Party. But those policies have not and never will be premised on morality. The currency of change is ballots, not ethics. Our article on voter suppression laws will demonstrate how those ballots have been stolen from Australia's most vulnerable communities.

Of course, in writing this we do not forget that greater evils than Labor and the Coalition exist in the Australian political landscape. Parties standing for all forms of oppression are running in this election. But to think their existence in isolation is folly. They are part of a broader system of hegemony, which both major parties actively participate in and reap the benefits of. As the profile in this edition reflects, when young people attempt to affect change, they are met with the full powers of nationalistic, conservative vitriole—we hope this does not deter new generations.

We encourage readers of this election edition to consider a whole range of alternative options that are available to them.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Federal Election selects a Parliament for an illegitimate settler-colonial state. The Australian project has slaughtered First Nations people, taken children, incarcerated, and erased language and culture. Both major parties carry on a legacy of dispossession.

Parliament House stands upon on stolen land—three nations have a connection to the land now called Canberra: the Ngannawal, Ngambri and Ngambri-Guamal people.

When a new cohort of parliamentarians is elected, there will likely be very few First Nations representatives among them, nor will there be many who will go on to wholeheartedly facilitate decolonisation. For 47 years and counting, a Tent Embassy has stood in some form or another adjacent to Parliament House, demanding reparations, genuine land rights, and honest legal protection. Over time, members have been violently removed by police, and the embassy temporarily taken down. It still not considered an official embassy by the Australian government.

When you approach the ballot box this weekend, remember: your democratic empowerment requires the disempowerment of First Nations' self-determination. You should vote accordingly.

The Northern Territory Intervention

Introduced by: The Coalition and continued by the Australian Labor Party.

Involved Governments: Howard, Rudd, Gillard.

Years: 2007- present.

Overview: The Northern Territory Intervention constituted a set of discriminatory laws in which the Howard Government banned the sale and consumption of alcohol in Indigenous communities, excluded cultural factors as a relevant consideration in sentencing and bail decisions and compulsorily acquired leases over declared Aboriginal land. The package of measures was justified

on the grounds of protecting Aboriginal children from child abuse. They relied on the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975, effectively denying Indigenous Australians protections from discrimination afforded to every other Australian citizen. Despite the absence of any data to demonstrate the benefits of these measures, and a range of criticisms from various human rights organisations, the ALP chose to continue this host of discriminatory measures through the "Stronger Futures Act" (2012). The policy is emblematic of the bi-partisan support for the destruction of Aboriginal Communities in contemporary Australia. Its psychological and social effects persist to this day.

FIRST NATIONS POLICY IN CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIA

Treaty with First Nations Peoples

ALP Stance: In the upcoming elections the ALP has given its support to a treaty.

Coalition Stance: The coalition does not support a treaty.

Record: No government from either party to date has ever entered into a treaty with First Nations peoples.

Overview: A treaty with First Nations Peoples would be significant in terms of recognising the sovereignty of First Nations, providing rights and assurances in terms of self-determination and recognising Australia's subjugation of First Nations Peoples. Treaties have been called for since at least the 1970s.

In 1988 the ALP's Hawke Government promised to enter into a treaty but ultimately never delivered on this.

Closing the Gap

Introduced by: The Australian Labor Party and continued by The Coalition.

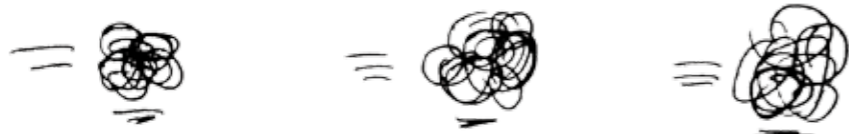
Involved governments: Rudd, Gillard, Abbott, Turnbull, and Morrison.

Overview: Closing the Gap refers to a series of targets established to reduce inequalities faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in terms of health, life expectancy, mortality, education, and employment. It makes no mention of incarceration rates despite Australia's Indigenous population being one of the world's most incarcerated groups. 3% of Australia's population is Aboriginal compared to 28% of the prison population.

Beyond its failure to recognise gaps in incarceration, many of the targets have not been met by ALP and Coalition governments

Voter Suppression Laws

Liam Thorne and Nina Dillon- Britton



In a world where Republicans are gradually restricting the right to vote by creating new barriers for prisoners, working class people and people of colour, Australia seems a model functional democracy. Mandatory voting, elections on weekends, easy registration, voting rights for most prisoners, long enrolment periods and short voting wait times mean that Australia has one of the world's highest voter turnouts.

Additionally, Parliament's ability to restrict voting rights or registration opportunities are limited, the High Court finding such restrictions to be largely unconstitutional.

That view, however, is incomplete. Although voting in Australia is far easier than most industrial democracies, voting remains incredibly difficult for the most marginalised. Tens of thousands of First Nations voters remain ineligible to vote because of cuts to AEC funding, the federal LNP is considering some of the

same restrictive reforms American conservatives have implemented, and turnout rates amongst young people remain relatively low. Though subtler than American suppression, these policies reflect the choices of a political elite as to who is heard, and who is not.



In modern elections, the Northern Territory (NT) is given relatively little attention. With only two electorates — Solomon, recently won back by Labor from Country Liberals, and Lingiari, a Labor safe

The Coalition government chose to cut \$1.5 million in funds to the NT Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) office

seat across the rest of the territory — broader Australia rarely invest much energy into this corner of

an election. A quarter of the NT population of approximately 250,000 are First Nations rights-holders. The territory also easily has the lowest voter-enrollment rate in the country at 83.9% — 12.3% lower than the national average, which means 26,731 adults are not on the electoral roll. When booths open this coming weekend for the federal election, 1 in 3 First Nations adults will not even be enrolled to participate. This reality should provoke major anxiety for the health of democracy in the region.

Despite the longstanding under-enrollment of Territorians, the Coalition government chose to cut \$1.5 million in funds to the NT

Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) office, with a further \$8.4 million planned in future years.

Five staff were fired from the Enrolment Branch, and four in the Indigenous Participation and Voter Education Branch. In the face of countless communities that lack the infrastructure to cast a vote, these cuts can only represent state negligence, and arguably, malice.

Most worryingly, enrolling approximately 20,000 people would easily swing a close election. Although Labor MP Warren Snowden has held the seat for decades, Jacinta Price, Warlpiri and Celtic woman and Country Liberals candidate, is expected to closely contest much of conservative urban Lingiari.

However, poor engagement is harmful regardless of the influenced election result. Parties are left with less impetus to make adversarial policy for many of the communities living around the poverty-line across the NT. One's right to vote is contingent on their right to have their vote genuinely facilitated — this is especially true in communities manhandled by settler-colonial policies like the Northern Territory Intervention Act.

In addition to refunding programs that promote community engagement, the AEC should establish direct enrolment across the NT. Direct enrolment programs use government lists to automatically enroll people unless they opt-out — they are currently used to great effect in urban areas, including Darwin, however, are not used in most of Lingiari, where postal services are deemed too 'unreliable.' In the context of compulsory voting, the Coalition government's refusal to protect the democratic rights of entire swathes of disadvantaged communities is voter suppression, plain and simple.



In 2015 the Queensland LNP government passed legislation requiring voters to present government-issued identification in order to vote. The move mirrored voter identification requirements

recently enacted in a number of conservative American states, which many have accused of disproportionately disenfranchising people of colour and poorer voters. Unsurprisingly, a study of the Queensland requirements found them to have excluded more voters in Indigenous and remote communities. More generally, turnout in the 2015 election saw the lowest Queensland turnout rates since 1980.

Despite this drop in turnout, the federal Coalition has continued

One's right to vote is contingent on their right to have their vote genuinely facilitated

to consider such reforms. This is in spite of consensus amongst electoral experts that voter fraud is essentially non-existent. Whilst it is difficult to know if such requirements change the outcome of elections, they have not met the onus of proving that they are required.



Access to voting also cuts across generational lines. Whilst a number of states have expanded postal voting, to account for older voters, NSW remains the only state to allow enrolment on election days, which appeals to younger voters. Queensland's identification requirements also reveal a bias towards older voters, as younger voters are more likely to vote in person.

The groups we divert resources towards encouraging to vote, and the way our electoral policies are made are both political choices. Current electoral policies betray indifference on the part of both major parties to the votes of young people.

These choices have clear outcomes. A YVote study of the 2016 federal election found that if young people had voted at similar rates to other age groups, it could have changed the outcome of ten

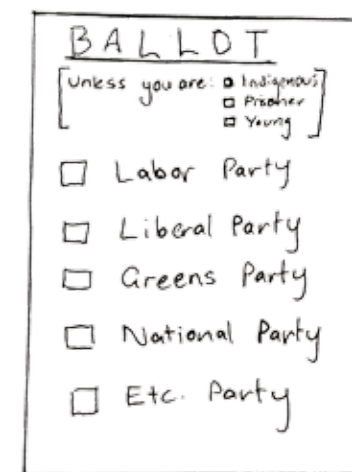
marginal seats. Recent polling has demonstrated that age is more important than political ideology in terms of determining the likelihood someone supports action on climate change.



In these ways and many more, Australian elites manufacture participation in elections, shoring up their continued hegemony and

protecting their interests. Electorate boundaries are moved, just like America. We void the rights of prisoners with sentences greater than three years to vote, despite their incarceration being likely explained by their socio-economic environment. Even those eligible are not adequately engaged; in 2013, only 1 per cent of roughly 10,600 enrolment packs provided to NSW prisons for inmates to complete postal votes ahead of the 2013 election were completed and returned.

We often question why voters don't support serious political action towards decolonisation, for wealth equality, or against climate change. Perhaps we must begin with those who cannot even vote.



National legislatures and young people are two things that are not commonly associated. The average age of Australian Federal Members of Parliament has hovered around 50 since federation, and at last count was 51. In the United States, citizens under the age of 25 are constitutionally disallowed from sitting in the House of Representatives. Throughout Western democracies, politicians are almost universally characterised as older than the general populace.

It's precisely this criterion for candidacy that young candidates around the country are poised to question this Federal Election. Almost 120 candidates under the age of 35 have nominated to enter the 46th Parliament, including 38 students. The Greens have put up the most number of student candidates, with 15, at least two of which attend the University of Sydney.

"People are labelling me as a ridiculously young candidate," Greens candidate for Barton and USyd student Connor Parissis told Honi. Parissis is currently studying a Master of Publishing after finishing his undergraduate degree last year, and has been heavily involved with student politics during his time on campus.

"I've been asked at polling booths whether I'm actually legally allowed to vote. People just look at me and say, 'holy crap, you're really young,'" he goes on to say.

"That's been the main thing — challenging the idea of who can run for Parliament. Does it have

to be this old man in a suit and tie with grey hair and a receding hairline, or can it be someone young?"

The influx of young candidates comes at a time of record youth enrolment—over 4 million voters

RUNNING FOR PARLIAMENT AS A STUDENT



Joe Verity interviews Greens candidate Connor Parissis.

under the age of 35 are enrolled to vote in the 2019 Federal Election, a number that pundits have speculated was assisted by the enrolment push in the 2017 Marriage Equality Plebiscite.

Most of these student candidates hold a very small chance of winning their electorate. According to Parissis however, candidates like him are there mainly to send a message.

"A lot of people are really into this anti-establishment idea, particularly a lot of swing voters.

When they see a young candidate, they say 'yeah, let's get behind this new way of thinking about politics,'" Parissis explains.

"In the same vein, the Liberals and the right are then using that same argument to dismiss me entirely. I can't have an opinion because I'm too young, or I can't engage in political commentary because I don't have the lived experience."

Two weeks before the election, Parissis was caught up in the flurry of media stories that exposed a variety of candidates' old social media posts.

The Daily Telegraph reported that Parissis had shared a number of controversial posts, including memes that News Corp dubbed anti-Semitic. The images labeled the Israeli Defence Force "terrorist" and Israel as "occupied Palestine".

Parissis apologised for posts encouraging violence against police and retained the endorsement of his party, arguing that the smear campaign had failed and that candidates "saw

through the bullshit".

When asked about his goals, Parissis is blunt.

"We're not expecting to win, obviously. I'm not expecting to beat Linda Burney anytime soon," he explains, referring to the Labor incumbent.

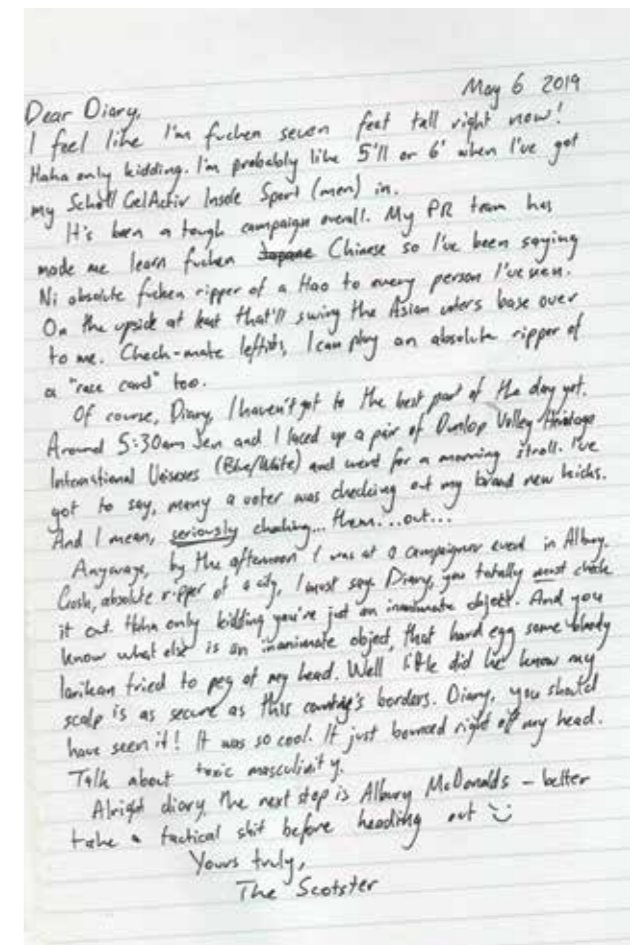
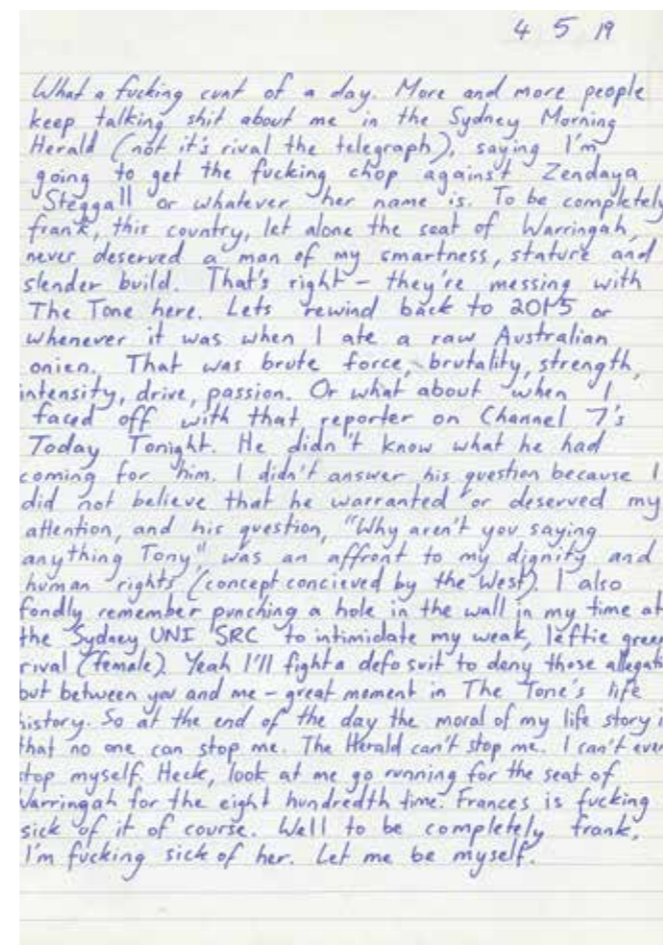
But Parissis doesn't think that's any reason not to run.

"It's the biggest platform you're going to get. People like me — young people and uni students — who want to step up and have that platform should do it."

Diaries of Your Federal Members of Parliament

As part of this year's election coverage, Honi Soit made a series of Freedom of Information requests relating to campaign materials used by party officials. In a box of documents ultimately released by the Liberal party, we found two campaign diaries which we believe to have belonged to Scott Morrison and Tony Abbott. Honi received legal advice not to publish excerpts from these diaries. We refuse to be silenced when the public interest is at stake.

Below are key pages from each.



Here at Honi Soit we cannot and will not stand for this type of unacceptable behaviour from those in the nation's highest office. If you share our outrage we urge you to pick up the phone and start dialing. Call the Scotster and Tone's office and ask them, in as clear terms as possible, how could you?

Tony Abbott: (02) 9977 6411
Scott Morrison: (02) 9523 0339



Either
Above the line
By numbering at least 6
of these boxes in the order
of your choice with number
1 as your first choice.

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PARTY

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PARTY

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PARTY

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Or
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of these boxes in the order
of your choice with number
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PARTY

You may vote in one of two ways
Either
Above the line
By numbering at least 6
of these boxes in the order
of your choice with number
1 as your first choice.

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You may vote in one of two ways
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By numbering at least 6
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of your choice with number
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You may vote in one of two ways
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By numbering at least 6
of these boxes in the order
of your choice with number
1 as your first choice.

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LOGO
6
PARTY

SAMPLE

Senate Ballot Paper
State - Election of 6 Senators

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PARTY

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You may vote in one of two ways
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By numbering at least 6
of these boxes in the order
of your choice with number
1 as your first choice.

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