

# Reducing Drag

## First Term Manifesto

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## 1. PURPOSE

The purpose is to provide context and detail of the party's priorities in a first term of Government.

Meaningful change starts with acknowledging the absurdity of the status quo, and once we accept that it is resistance to change that becomes absurd. In over a hundred years we have had, relatively, little change of any significance to our economic and political systems, and in an ever-changing world it is the handbrake to future prosperity we urgently need to release.

### 1.1. Problem Statement

A trillion dollars in debt, low productivity, some of the highest levels of household debt in the world and an over reliance on mining, public service jobs and non-innovative service industries. Add to that the lurking white collar jobs Armageddon that is AI and it's not hard to see that there is a whole lot of economic pain to come.

The Australian economy is an inefficient, largely ineffective and extremely complex system of seemingly never-ending unnecessary and non-value add dependencies and constraints. It is structurally unsound and does not adequately meet our Nations needs today and without drastic action, the not-so-distant future is undoubtedly going to be a whole lot worse.

The need for broad sweeping change is as obvious as it is now urgent, but identifying problems and potential solutions is not the issue. As a democracy, the Political establishment is our greatest failing and any expectation that the cohort responsible for the current woeful state of affairs is somehow capable of successfully navigating us forward, is futile in the extreme.

They say power doesn't corrupt it reveals. In today's political, bureaucratic, and corporate environments, you rarely rise to the top without being drawn into, or at least tolerating, the deeply flawed and often unethical systems that govern advancement. If we are to attract the future leaders we desperately need, this must change, because career politicians are most definitely not the answer.

The cold hard reality is if you were asked to design an optimal tax and political system, it would look nothing like what we have today, and there is no compelling reason why change should be so hard. In truth, it is the politics of it all that is the biggest obstacle.

### 1.2. Policy Objectives

In our lucky country scarcity is a choice.

The veneer of prosperity is a cruel lie and with the constant and systematic erosion of community and traditional support systems, has created a tinderbox of social discontent and conflict, ripe for political manipulation.

The concept of fair and opportunity is an elaborate illusion that exists only in the self-congratulatory vacuum of the political and economic elites bubble of power.

We will prioritise structural reform and drastically improve the mechanics of how we govern and achieve economic stability.

We don't have all the answers yet, but be assured... nothing is off the table.

## 2. POLICY PRIORITIES

Politicians are extremely adept at diverting attention away from problems they have no interest in solving and creating the illusion of action whilst delivering very little.

The sad reality is there are very few areas of our political and economic systems that do not require a major overhaul, however attempting to tackle all problems simultaneously or reacting to every opinion poll and news cycle noise that modern Politics so craves, guarantees continuation of the current status quo where nothing real is solved.

We will move with purpose.

Obvious changes will be swift and decisive to demonstrate intent, focus Parliament's clarity, create momentum and build public confidence but beyond that, prioritisation will be the discipline that makes real progress possible rather than just theoretical.

Acknowledging we can no more expect everything to go according to plan than we can predict the future, maintaining capacity to allow for a considered and cautious approach to addressing the more complex issues and change implementation will be crucial.

The ambitious reform we will embark on requires a disciplined cycle involving genuine consultation, structured planning that responsibly sequences necessary changes with due consideration to dependencies and constraints, execution, assessing intended impact and identifying any unintended impact experienced, and adjusting the approach as required.

Nothing is off the table.

Establishing clear areas of priority, does not mean we ignore everything else. It simply defines where the maximum effort will be concentrated during our first term so subsequent reform can also proceed in a controlled and responsibly sequenced manner.

### 2.1. POLITICAL SYSTEM

Universal suffrage (the ability of every citizen to vote) is the most fundamental democratic right we possess. The core issue in our current political climate is one of agency and it is twofold.

- Voters have lost faith in the political establishment and doubt their vote has any real impact.
- The genuine leaders we need to attract to Parliament often believe that the system itself blocks meaningful change, discouraging them from nominating for election in the first place.

We are committed to delivering the referendum required to alter the constitution and enable the changes that need to happen, in our first year in Government.

#### 2.1.1. Constitutional Monarchy

All powers, symbolic or otherwise, and any reference to a foreign Monarchy or foreign powers will be removed from the Constitution as Australia transitions to an independent Republic.

The role of Governor-General (and State Governors for that matter) will be abolished, and Royal Commissions will in future be referred to as Executive (or similar) Commissions, but they are inconsequential – Australia is one of four countries in the world that retain another country's flag on their own, are we are committed to changing that.

It will be included in the referendum, but to choose an alternate, not whether to change it or not.

### **2.1.2. Federation**

We are an island nation with only one true border marked by thousands of kilometres of coastline, yet we cling to the the imaginary and completely arbitrary internal borders of our states and territories as if they were real boundaries in an age where the tyranny of distance no longer prevails.

Under Section 107 of the Australian Constitution, each state keeps all powers it had before Federation except those handed to the Commonwealth meaning state powers are broad and residual. In short, the states have constitutionally protected powers that the Commonwealth cannot override unless the Constitution explicitly allows it.

The inefficiency and waste generated by the political and bureaucratic duplication is reason enough, but the cross-border inconsistencies in law and red tape is criminal.

The current structure and division of power is a historical byproduct of individual and distinct colonies with a mutual mistrust of each other... if after a 100 years we cannot dispense with the waste of the current system then when.

We will...

- Remove all inconsistencies in law between States / Territories.
- Centralise high priority State responsibilities in Law Enforcement, Education, Health, etc...
- Remove all duplicate non-value add bureaucracy especially where it doesn't specifically require a physical presence.
- Repurpose the reduced State / Territory assemblies to become more administrative in nature for such things as local project implementation governance, and to provide support and governance oversight of Local Government Councils.

### **2.1.3. Representative Democracy**

Politicians, I think now more than ever, are more accurately characterised as representative of a Political party than of the citizens that elect them.

In short, we are not attracting or at least we are not electing enough people of the right character, intelligence and experiences. We need to identify and elect better people... communities need to identify and elect better leaders, and those same people need to be convinced that they can realistically achieve change.

Setting eligibility criteria for parliamentary candidates may seem counter-intuitive to an inclusive and non-discriminatory democratic system, but it is precisely the absence of such guardrails that has enabled powerful unelected and unaccountable influences to shape career politicians whose primary objective becomes winning office rather than serving the public.

Therefore electoral candidates at every level.

- Must be between the ages of 30 – 63 when elected.
- Must NOT have dual citizenship.
- Must have a passport and been to a minimum of three different countries.

- Can be elected a maximum of 3 times (I.e. therefore maximum of 12 years as a sitting Member of Federal Parliament – grandfathered for terms served predating this change), at each/any level of Government. I.e. Council, State / Territory and Federal.

But the biggest changes will be structural in nature, drastically reducing the overall number of elected Parliamentarians (Federal & State / Territory combined) increasing government efficiency and delivering significant annual savings.

The changes to be introduced include, but are very unlikely to be limited to, the following.

- Dissolve and abolish Federal & remaining State Upper Houses in favour of Unicameralism, with Federal legislation requiring the following to be passed into law;
  - Majority of overall votes.
  - Majority of the votes from the majority of the States / Territories.
- All State / Territory elections to be held simultaneously where Members are elected to their respective “Assembly” to a 4-year term.
- Federal elections will likewise be for a 4-year term.
- State / Territory elections to be governed AEC (Australian Electoral Commission) under a single set of rules.
- Single election day (E.g. last Saturday of October) every two years alternating between State / Territory & Federal.
- Only elected Representatives and documented employees of either the Representatives or Parliament House itself have access. All other persons require written sponsorship by a sitting Member of the Federal Parliament to gain access, which will be limited to pre-approved schedule. I.e. can’t just gain access and wander about unescorted.

Currently there is a combined total of 847 Federal, State & Territory elected members of Parliament and with the structural changes already outlined, we will drastically reduce that number.

And whilst a sense of civic responsibility should be a key consideration, we must provide financial remuneration more befitting the responsibility entrusted to those elected to manage the affairs and interests, internally and internationally, of our Country.

- The State & Territory representatives will receive the same base salary that Federal members currently receive, and the Federal base salary will be 50% more than that with loading for senior positions as per current practice.
- Base Salaries subject to annual indexation.

## **2.2. TAX SYSTEM**

Australia’s tax system is primarily reliant on income tax and the administration of a complicated array of deductible expenses and tax concessions.

Income tax makes no sense. It creates a feeling that “I” ... as a taxpayer are paying for someone else in the community who isn’t contributing in the same way financially that I am, which is divisive and builds resentment.

Complexity not only makes the system harder to administer it makes it easier for those that can afford the expertise to avoid tax, with note that very same expertise that comes at undoubtedly considerable expense to the recipient, is itself tax deductible... oh the irony.

The goal is a far simpler system, with a transparent and coherent set of incentives that are complimentary with other broader policy objectives.

### 2.2.1. Personal Income Tax

By far the largest source of Government revenue, critics of Australia's progressive tax personnel income system say it is a disincentive to work.

However, my biggest objection is that it's hard to imagine a more inefficient and non-value administrative eco-system, than that which is the byproduct of the current approach.

1. Employer withholds PAYG for the Government
2. Taxpayer submits tax return
3. Government repays deductible amounts of around 13% back to Taxpayers
4. Multiplied by approx. 13.5 million times...

Our proposed changes to the personal income tax (PIT) brackets will see every taxpayer except the top 0.2% of wage earners pay less tax... much less tax, with approximately 15.5 million taxpayers paying zero.

**Table 1:** Potential new Personal Income tax brackets

| Taxable Income |             | Tax Rate | Tax on Bracket | Cumulative Tax | Comparison  |             |
|----------------|-------------|----------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
|                |             |          |                |                | Gross       | Net         |
| -              | \$200,000   | 0.0%     | \$0            | \$0            | \$56,137    | \$55,552    |
| \$200,001      | \$400,000   | 50.0%    | \$100,000      | \$100,000      | \$146,137   | \$135,989   |
| \$400,001      | \$800,000   | 52.5%    | \$209,999      | \$309,999      | \$326,137   | \$208,932   |
| \$800,001      | \$1,600,000 | 55.0%    | \$439,999      | \$749,998      | \$686,137   | \$452,660   |
| \$1,600,001    | \$3,200,000 | 57.5%    | \$919,999      | \$1,669,998    | \$1,406,137 | \$1,096,103 |
| \$3,200,001    | +           | 60.0%    |                |                |             |             |

**Note:** Comparison is the calculated Cumulative Tax per current Tax Brackets and Rates (Gross) and adjusted by 22% to reflect current allowable deduction percentage estimate (Net).

With both PAYG and PIT largely redundant, we must carefully consider and manage the impact to real wages and potential inflationary pressures.

Therefore, for the vast majority of Australian Taxpayers

- Wages to undergo a one-off adjustment to the net amount plus up to 20%. I.e. gross wage (ex-Superannuation) less current income tax amount, plus 20%.
- Super Guarantee Percentage reduced to 10% with contributions to be made post personal income tax calculation therefore the Super Contributions Tax is abolished. Contributions over and above can be made at any time and accessed at any time as well.
- Non-wage income reporting to ATO remains.
- Fringe benefits unchanged.
- Remuneration in any form other than wages (shares, etc...) to be calculated on face value of the share and included in Taxable Income for Personal Tax purposes.
- Taxable Income brackets subject to annual indexation.

Importantly, with over 13.5 million personal income tax returns avoided annually, a cycle of non-value activity and cost waste is removed from the economy, with the progressive tax system retained primarily to disincentivise disproportionately exorbitant Executive remunerations.

### **2.2.2. Company Income Tax**

Corporate tax in Australia is a complex game of deceit and cognitive dissonance that thrives on the tension between what the system claims to be (transparent, equitable, rules-based) and the labyrinth of loopholes, political compromises, and economic incentives it is in practice, that allows the largest companies to minimise their obligations while smaller businesses and wage earners shoulder the bulk of the tax burden.

Sustained by the polite fiction that a headline 30% corporate tax rate tells you anything meaningful about what large corporations actually pay, a rightfully bewildered public is subject to the annual ritual of shamelessly celebrated record revenues, whilst government quietly ignores the billions siphoned offshore through transfer pricing, intellectual-property havens and billing and contract routing.

The reality;

- small businesses are the economic engine of this country, and;
- whilst the importance of large corporates is undeniable, they are not designed or incentivised to be good citizens, are structurally and commercially oriented toward risk minimisation and therefore not innovation hubs and are procedural driven box-tickers that espouse diversity but ultimately reward organisational conformity.

The three main focus areas at the core of our policy implementation are to;

- Redefine the definition and how corporate income is identified and accounted for
- Reduce and refine what is an allowable reduction so incentives reflect the Nations interests
- Introduce progressive tax brackets

The following is a non-exclusive list of the categories marked for removal from what will be pre-tax allowable deductions, with note to the extensive consultation yet to come and conscious of its contentious nature.

- Wages paid to non-Australian taxpayers
- Advertising & marketing
- Accounting, legal and consulting fees
- Bank fees and merchant fees
- Interest & financing costs
- Insurance premiums
- Utilities expense
- DGR (deductible gift recipient) payments

Sure to create rigorous debate, it is important to understand that the current system not only supports but effectively underwrites a slew of non-value economic drain at the direct expense of taxpayers and indirectly to the detriment of society in general.

Ponder this for a moment – under current arrangements the cost of offshoring Australian jobs to another country, advertising by gambling companies and lavish executive junkets are all legally deductible expenses.

It is important at this point to acknowledge that such changes will most definitely lead to higher prices for goods and services. The offset is expected to be twofold as Companies more closely scrutinise expenditure that would otherwise have simply reduced tax burdens, and prioritise employee wages, training and work environments as allowable deductions.

A final word must be reserved for charitable or DGR payments, with note we are committed to a comprehensive review of the whole industry to ensure it is and remains fit for purpose.

Charity is big business in Australia, and the amount of money siphoned from the system before it reaches the most in need is enough to warrant changes, but the mere existence of the term “corporate philanthropy” is a contradiction so stark given the prominent role big corporates and ultra-high worth individuals play in the need for charity, that we should all be sickened by the very public fawning and self-contractually nature of the current eco-system.

I cannot think of a group of individuals less suitable to deciding what initiates receive funding and watch with great interest to the changes in behaviour once they are no longer taxpayer funded.

**Table 2:** Potential progressive Company Income tax brackets

| Taxable Income  |                 | Tax Rate | Tax on Bracket  | Cumulative Tax  | Comparison      |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| -               | \$0             | 0.0%     | \$0             | \$0             | \$0             |
| \$1             | \$1,000,000     | 15.0%    | \$150,000       | \$150,000       | \$240,000       |
| \$1,000,001     | \$5,000,000     | 17.5%    | \$700,000       | \$850,000       | \$1,200,000     |
| \$5,000,001     | \$10,000,000    | 20.0%    | \$1,000,000     | \$1,849,999     | \$2,400,000     |
| \$10,000,001    | \$50,000,000    | 25.0%    | \$10,000,000    | \$11,849,999    | \$12,000,000    |
| \$50,000,001    | \$100,000,000   | 30.0%    | \$15,000,000    | \$26,849,999    | \$24,000,000    |
| \$100,000,001   | \$500,000,000   | 35.0%    | \$140,000,000   | \$166,849,999   | \$120,000,000   |
| \$500,000,001   | \$1,000,000,000 | 40.0%    | \$200,000,000   | \$366,849,998   | \$240,000,000   |
| \$1,000,000,001 | \$5,000,000,000 | 45.0%    | \$1,800,000,000 | \$2,166,849,998 | \$1,200,000,000 |
| \$5,000,000,001 | +               | 50.0%    |                 |                 |                 |

**Note:** Comparison is the calculated estimate of Cumulative Tax at a flat 30% Rates and adjusted by 20% for changes to allowable deductions.

Let me be clear – we will be simplifying the way Corporate tax is calculated, and we will aggressively pursue any exploited loopholes to closure in order to maintain the intention and integrity of the changes introduced.

### 2.2.3. Minimum Income Guarantee

The pursuit of full employment is an outdated economic objective. The age of Artificial Intelligence is already upon us and without radical change we should expect a future of severe unemployment and poverty. We cannot opt out of an AI future, but equally we must not sit by passively and allow that future to be solely dictated to us.

The increased workers leave entitlements we mandate will create additional demand in work areas unaffected by AI and only “Australian jobs” as allowable corporate tax deductions will contribute to retaining and in some cases boosting work opportunities, but we recognise this will likely be insufficient in the long term, and therefore we need to ensure an efficient and effective safety net exists.

We are committed to introducing a Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG), which will be a version of the more widely recognisable Universal Basic Income (UBI), ultimately replacing welfare payments such as jobseeker and removing the nonsensical and dehumanising charade they call mutual obligation requirements.

A taskforce will be established to consider the program architecture and how best balance work incentives, transition planning and all the other complexities such a crucial and transformative change requires, with note we are committed to a compressive review of the entire welfare system to ensure it is and remains fit for purpose.

In the short term we expect a material increase in payments will be required to avoid additional hardship during this time of significant change by those that can least afford it.

## **2.3. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

We need to break the obsession with job creation... the any job, at all costs... specifically mindless, non-value add office jobs. They are not good for productivity; they are not good for mental health... let alone community health. With the AI tsunami apparently already upon us, I fear we may be behind the break already, but regardless we should as a society embrace the opportunity and pave the way for broader adoption, by working less.

Our proposed changes target greater flexibility and choice and remove restrictive workplace policies for both employees and businesses.

For starters, we will increase paid annual leave to 13 weeks.

No more sick leave, no more forced religious public holidays, no more long service leave... 13 weeks each year for workers to choose when they want that leave. Whilst essentially equivalent to a 4-day work week, the changes allow for maximum flexibility, meaning working parents with school age children can potentially align with school holidays, those preferring a shorter work week are likewise accommodated or use the extra leave to travel, learn a craft, attend a festival, volunteer at a local charity or observe a religious event of your own personal beliefs.

Only the following public holidays, which will be additional to the 13 weeks, will remain.

- ANZAC Day
- Australia Day
- New Years Day
- One day per State / Territory of its own choosing. E.g. NSW Day.

Note, Teachers will not receive additional leave over and above current levels but will receive an immediate increase in their salary as a direct offset for these changes – refer our Education Policy.

Oh... and we’re moving Australia day. It will be included in the referendum, but to choose an alternate date, not whether to change it or not. E.g.

- May 8 – M8 (mate) Day

- May 27 – The day in 1967 when the referendum to count indigenous people in the census was passed with 90.77% support.
- Sep 1 – Wattle Day, a non-political option and a symbolically significant day of nature being the first day of Spring.

We want the employment market to be more mobile and encourage more frequent transition when people find themselves in ill-suited roles or environments for whatever reason, and likewise employers need to be able to move people on who do not or no longer fit with the needs of the organisation... also for whatever reason.

We will...

- Abolish probationary periods for new employees – hiring is fraught with risk, but it is a risk that should be shared by both parties.
- Abolish redundancy laws, whilst simultaneously introducing automatic Termination & Resignation payments.
- Render confidentiality agreements preventing employee disclosure of unlawful or unethical behaviour null and void. I.e. companies cannot buy silence.

That does **not** impact workplace rights related to bullying, discrimination, etc... however employers will be able to terminate employment without reason, dispensing with the need to demonstrate “redundancy”. As such the redundancy payment framework will be replaced with mandatory termination & resignation payments.

**Table 4:** NES (National Employment Standards) Redundancy Pay Schedule & Proposed alternative

| NES              |                | Proposed         |             |             |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Period           | Redundancy Pay | Period           | Pay         |             |
|                  |                |                  | Termination | Resignation |
| Less than 1 year | 0 weeks        | Less than 1 year | 4 weeks     | 0 weeks     |
| 1 – 2 years      | 4 weeks        | 1 – 2 years      | 6 weeks     | 2 weeks     |
| 2 – 3 years      | 6 weeks        | 2 – 3 years      | 8 weeks     | 4 weeks     |
| 3 – 4 years      | 7 weeks        | 3 – 4 years      | 10 weeks    | 6 weeks     |
| 4 – 5 years      | 8 weeks        | 5+ years         | 12 weeks    | 8 weeks     |
| 5 – 6 years      | 10 weeks       |                  |             |             |
| 6 – 7 years      | 11 weeks       |                  |             |             |
| 7 – 8 years      | 13 weeks       |                  |             |             |
| 8 – 9 years      | 14 weeks       |                  |             |             |
| 9 – 10 years     | 16 weeks       |                  |             |             |
| 10+ years        | 12 weeks       |                  |             |             |

**Note:** In the case of employee misconduct, termination payments are forfeited with the Fair Work Tribunal to hear any disputes in such cases.

A final comment on a prominent and predominantly white-collar topic – working from home “rights”.

Workplaces are the communal meeting place for ideas, creativity and constructive competition. From colleagues and friends to competitors and antagonists, we need to connect and we need to be

challenged, to be productive and achieve objectives. We learn from those around us and the regular proximity provided by a common physical workplace is important.

Therefore government will not interfere nor intervene in an employers right to manage remote working, or not, as best required for their business.

### **2.3.1. Bureaucracy**

Too much is dependent of the false expectation of an effective and efficient bureaucracy and far too much power in the omnipotent, incompetent and unelected hands of highly paid and often institutionalised career public servants.

The absurdity of Government talking about the need for productivity improvements whilst residing over one of the largest per capita bureaucracies on the planet is blind ignorance at its worst. We will remove duplication, reduce waste and clearly define roles and responsibilities as we rebuild and empower a new Public Service more capable of effectively serving the public.

As such...

- All consulting will be cancelled or put on hold pending review, immediately.
- No one in a Government department will be paid more than the Prime Minister.
- The Departments will NOT have their own Finance departments, rather a Finance Manager that works for Dept of Finance with all systems, etc... shared centrally.
- Rigorous emphasis on budget transparency and controls, via single financial system.
- Single ID replaces TFN (tax file number) drivers licence, Medicare, social security (E.g. MIG), working with children, etc... with single national database. I.e. school can look up to see if a valid working with children permit is associated with ID but not view any other details. Passport linked via same system although separate document would obviously remain.

The long road to tackling capability and capacity must start with our bureaucracy, which demands we tackle not just the size, but also its competency.

- Can't join until over 30 years old.
- Max 10 years continuous employment in a non-exempt Public Service role (non-exempt means police officers, nurses, teachers, etc...)
- Working from home will be by exception only.
- Dept heads appointed by Government.
- Immediate reduction targets, plus ongoing continuous right sizing

## **2.4. HOUSING**

### **2.4.1. Background**

Whether short-stay letting was originally meant to unlock idle housing capacity (holiday homes, spare rooms, temporary absences) is completely irrelevant. The reality is that it has in part transitioned to become a commercialised, large-scale investment strategy involving full-time short-stay properties, multi-property portfolios, professionalised hosting and de facto hotels operating in residential zones, which has contributed to decreasing housing affordability, supply issues in the long term rental market and quality of community living in affected high density housing.

An umbrella salesman needs it to rain. Federal government has embarked on a number of extremely expensive, inefficient and anecdotally ineffective schemes to address a “housing crisis” of its own making.

The fact we have a Housing Minister is damning enough... does anyone feel the need for a food Minister? The reality... we don't have a housing crisis in this country; we have a policy crisis.

### **2.4.2. Proposal**

Giving taxpayer money to buyers in an inflated priced housing market is the epitome of stupidity.

The first priority is to abolish all of the taxpayer funded government schemes that contribute to high housing costs, with immediate effect. E.g.

- Abolish negative gearing grandfathering.
- Abolish first home buyers grant.
- Abolish 5% deposit guarantee scheme.

We need to reaffirm that the primary purpose of housing is to provide safe, stable, and secure shelter — it is a fundamental human need that underpins health, dignity, and participation in society, and we need policy that reflects that need, rather than as a wealth creation tool.

- Australian Citizens can own up to two (2) residential properties per person, Dual Citizens and Permanent Residents can own one (1).
- Any additional residential property owned over above limits attracts annual tax equivalent up to 12% of the estimated property price.
- Residential homes (houses, apartments, etc... with the exception of public and emergency housing) can only be owned by a person. I.e. cannot be owned by a company, trust, superannuation fund, etc...
- Current temporary restriction on foreign ownership of established homes to be permanent.

Acknowledging the potential additional impact on more recent borrowers in an extremely overpriced market already displaying signs of distress, we will legislate to ensure all existing and all future mortgages in Australia must be “non-recourse” with immediate effect meaning a borrower can choose to hand back the keys without the lender pursuing additional debt beyond the value of the home. I.e. if the home sells for less than the mortgage balance, the borrower owes nothing further.

Finally, we will introduce a national levy of 30% of the total booking amount for short-stay accommodation of anything equal to or less than 30 days. Does not apply to the owner's principal place of residence & commercial business's such as hotels, motels and hostels.

## **2.5. EDUCATION**

### **2.5.1. Background**

Schools are a powerful place for shaping our future society and segregation in schooling, whether by design or by outcome tends to amplify mistrust, prejudice and intolerance.

The divide between Public and Private schools may not be formally framed as “segregation,” but the system is structural, systematic and produces de facto separation along socio-economic, religious and cultural lines.

That separation has social consequences.

It produces clusters of students who are more alike than different and reduces opportunities for children to interact with peers from different backgrounds, which can hinder intercultural understanding, reinforce stereotypes and create social distance between groups.

And it shapes adult society. When children grow up in separate educational worlds, we risk weaker social cohesion, reduced empathy across cultural groups, political polarisation and persistent socio-economic divides.

Balancing identity preservation with social cohesion is a challenge in a multicultural society, but government funded segregation within our educational system is more problem than solution, especially when it comes with an approximate annual cost to taxpayers of \$20 billion.

### **2.5.2. Context**

In the early 1960s, Catholic schools, especially in working-class suburbs, were on the brink of collapse. They were educating a large share of Australia's children (estimated at 25-30%) but had almost no government support and relied heavily on low-paid or unpaid religious staff. As religious orders declined and enrolments grew, the system became financially unsustainable.

The reality was if Catholic schools collapsed, state systems would be overwhelmed overnight. The Commonwealth stepped in to support the system financially and for obvious political reasons, this made it impossible to exclude other non-government schools, therefore over the following two decades, funding expanded to all private schools including high-fee independent schools.

### **2.5.3. Proposal**

The first priority will be to establish a program working group whose primary role will be to establish a project plan to achieve the following objectives over a realistic timeline with appropriate controls and risk mitigation measures.

Subject to referendum outcomes, we will transfer relevant State powers and responsibilities to the Commonwealth, creating a reformed national body governed by delegates from all States & Territories, with state-based departments administering locally. The national body and state departments are to be as much as practically possible, resourced with qualified and experienced teachers, rotating regularly back through the school (public and private) system.

Government has a responsibility to guarantee every Australian child equal access to free, high-quality education, and parents have the right to educate their children in a private school setting. However, we do not believe public funds should subsidise that private choice, as doing so entrenches and amplifies existing segregation within the education system.

Public education is a right and private education is a choice, and without any pre-determined deadline commitment, our outcome objectives are;

- Increase number of teachers and reduce the number of students per primary school class.
- Remove all government funding for non-public primary schools.
- Remove all government funding for the most exclusive non-public secondary schools.
- Materially reduce the government funding for all other non-public secondary schools.

For immediate implementation;

- One-off pay increase of 15% for school employees (teachers, principles, admi staff... et al).
- Immediate 10% reduction in government funding for all non-government run secondary schools.

#### **2.5.4. Tertiary**

We will conduct an immediate and wide-ranging review of the Industry in general and the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS), Job Ready Graduate (JRG) Scheme, HELP and all other government contributions.

HECS is the epitome of good intentions expressed in bad policy.

The consequences of this ill-conceived “hand-up” is that we have burdened a generation with crippling debts, for degrees not worth the paper they’re written on at a time where they should be fully embracing and contributing to every possible life experience.

Not only that, but we’ve also managed to devalue our once greater centres of deliberation and learning, from places of prestige and the envy of much of the world, to qualification supermarkets.

When higher education is big business... the only equation that matters is measured in dollars. We acknowledge the right of people to pursue tertiary education, and we recognise that the reliance or importance placed on this path has been deliberately and artificially inflated beyond its needs and usefulness to society.

We will materially subsidise priority degrees, raise the selection bar for entry and be more considered with who progresses. E.g. top 80% progress from year 1 to year 2, etc... etc... those that miss out can re-apply 12 months later (I.e. they need to take a break to consider career goals rather than immediately start again with next intake).

### **3. REVIEW AND INVESTIGATE**

This is acknowledgement that regardless of the expertise engaged and extensive collaboration.

1. we won’t always get policy right,
2. we don’t have a coherent, stress tested policy for every issue... yet.

And this is why we need leadership in Government... not career politicians.

Comprehensive monitoring and continual review of implemented policies will be the cornerstone of the Administration / Bureaucracy moving forward to ensure Government has the information to take timely and decisive action to address policy weaknesses.

#### **3.1. Referendum**

The constitutional changes required to implement our program of change include but are not limited to.

- The transfer of State powers to the Commonwealth
- Selection of a new Australia Day Date
- Selection of a new flag
- Confirmation of a Republic
- Unicameral Parliaments and associated changes

- Eligibility rules to run for Parliament & State Assembly's

### 3.2. Other Review Priorities

- FIRB (Foreign Investment Review Board)
- Impact of Commercial Property ownership on businesses
- Health insurance registered with Medicare – if you have private health insurance and use public system then Private Health Insurance pays (otherwise paying for insurance not used)
- Review the definition of “Not for Profits” (approx. 300k in Australia of which 60k are charities) with the specific purpose of drastically reduce the number registered.

## 4. VERSION HISTORY

| Date      | Ref. | Description    |
|-----------|------|----------------|
| 29-Jul-26 | 0.1  | Draft release. |
|           |      |                |
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