



THE FAWCETT FLYER

March 2019



Last Friday I was asked to address the UN Youth Conference being held in South Australia on the topic of global security, dealing with subjects such as terrorism vs freedom fighters.

Little could the organisers have known that just hours before I provided their keynote address, the world would be rocked by the terror attack in Christchurch which saw 50 innocent people murdered and many more critically injured and scarred—physically or emotionally—for life.

The Prime Minister has rightly condemned the attack and the intolerant ideology behind it.

The UN Conference was an opportunity to help this group of young Australians make some sense of a world where we condemn violence in some contexts but recognise that the use of lethal force can have a legitimate purpose when authorised by a democratic government and exercised for the protection of human rights.

It is disappointing that some on both extremes of Australian

politics and beyond our shores have sought to use this tragic event in NZ to further their cause.

Australians must be free to have nuanced and informed debates about contentious issues but comments that vilify victims of a crime on the basis of their religion are as unhelpful as foreign leaders who seek to implicate all Australians for the crimes of one.

We also need to condemn the approach taken by those who would seek to use this tragedy to shut down legitimate debate by labelling views different to their own as “hate speech”. As the Liberal Party platform states, we believe in the most basic freedoms of parliamentary democracy - the freedom of thought, worship, speech and association.

Finally, the free ride Bill Shorten and Labor have had with their reckless 45% emission reduction target is coming to an end with industry and media groups calling for detail on how this economy wide policy will impact on specific sectors such as agriculture and transport.

When I was in Rockhampton recently, the “Beef Capital of Australia”, primary producers wanted to understand how much extra green-tax Labor’s policy would impose on their industry. Tradies wanted to know how much extra they would have to pay for their Hilux ute.

Labor have no answers but independent modelling released this month confirms that Labor’s emissions reduction target and 50% renewable energy target will be a wrecking-ball through the Australian economy.

To achieve their targets power prices will go up up by nearly 60% and additional taxes will be required to drive behaviours in non-energy sectors of the economy (eg: agriculture) which have a significant emissions profile.

If you would like information on this or other issues such as our investments in national security, the positive impact of our economic policies or investments in health and education, please let my office know.

SENATOR DAVID FAWCETT





IN THE MEDIA

One of the key changes made by our Government is to require that projects for new Defence equipment, such as aircraft, must also include planning and funding for supporting infrastructure and maintenance (the Integrated Investment Program) as part of the 2016 Defence White Paper process. This directly impacts my portfolio as Assistant Minister for Defence.

Following the acquisition of 3 additional Chinook helicopters, I visited the 5th Aviation Regiment at RAAF Base Townsville late last month to announce the \$49.9 million project to extend facilities used to house the F Model Chinook helicopters.

“Previous Chinook infrastructure projects... injected around \$33 million into the local economy.”

These funds will build two new shelters, as well as logistic support facilities, additional hard-stand tarmac areas and workspace accommodation for the men and women who will be supporting the Chinooks.

Previous Chinook infrastructure projects in Townsville injected around \$33 million into the local economy with 76 per cent of subcontract packages being awarded to businesses within a 50km radius of the RAAF Base.

With our Government's new Local Industry Capability Plan, we look forward to improve on this previous result. For more on our Government's LICP, see page 4.

I also announced the achievement of a key milestone in establishing a new training area near Greenvale, as part of the Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative. Between Greenvale and Shoalwater Bay, the Singaporean Government is investing \$2.25 billion into the Australian economy, bringing out some 14,000 troops for up to 18 weeks each year in unilateral exercises, and developing our strategic partnership by joint exercises with Australia.

The significant investment of funds will flow into constructing facilities to house all the necessary equipment and personnel on land that Defence Australia will still continue to own and operate.

You can view my 7News Townsville interview, by clicking [here](#) via the QR code below.





ENABLING COMMUNITIES TO GET MORE OUT OF DEFENCE CONTRACTS

I am pleased to report on the effectiveness of our Government's new approach for Defence infrastructure tenders – the Local Industry Capability Plan.

While technical compliance and value for money remain key tendering requirements, contractors will also have to engage closely with local industry and demonstrate to the Government how they intend to flow much of the work, and therefore the funds, into the local community.

Where the LICP has been applied in recent projects in QLD and the ACT, we've seen 80-90 per cent of the work and value of projects go to

local companies.

Latchford Barracks' new health centre in Victoria and the new Royal Military College health facility in the ACT will feature the LICP approach for the \$14.4 million and \$33.4 million projects, respectively.

Where the LICP has been applied previously the Government has run a series of programs to help smaller subcontractors to lift their awareness of the tendering requirements and how they can get involved with the larger head contractors and win work. The Government will run similar programs for work in both Townsville and Greenvale.

PROTECTING OUR 6 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

As the Liberal Party platform states, we believe in the most basic freedoms of parliamentary democracy - the freedom of thought, worship, speech and association.

“**This [section] raises the likelihood that a priest or pastor who taught long-accepted views of gender and marriage could be hauled before a Discrimination tribunal.**”

Labor clearly has abandoned such principles, having introduced a bill into the Senate at the end of last year – the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Removing Discrimination against Students) Bill 2018 – which purported to protect same-sex attracted children in religious schools from discrimination but in practice, undermined freedom of speech, association and religion.

This bill has a number of critical flaws including the amendment to Section 37 of the Act which applies

to religious bodies (ie: churches and synagogues, etc.) as opposed to religious schools.

This raises the likelihood that a priest or pastor who taught long-accepted views of gender and marriage could be hauled before a Discrimination tribunal.

Even under proposed changes to Section 38 which applies to religious schools, the only defence allowed for under Labor’s amendments is the Section 7B “Reasonableness Test”. This is a flawed approach as recent discrimination cases, including Jason Tey (a Perth based photographer) and Tasmania’s Archbishop Porteous, demonstrate that our contemporary society no longer has any agreement on what is “reasonable”.

You can read the text of my speech on the bill here or see a video of my final comments here. The Bill is not likely to be debated again during the current Parliament.

However Labor and Greens continue to assert that their changes are both appropriate and necessary, failing

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to acknowledge that this proposed legislation would undermine the fundamental freedoms long enjoyed by Australians.

That means the fate of religious freedom in Australia will largely

be determined during the next Parliamentary term, which makes the outcome of the Federal Election in May critically important.

You can view my final comments in the Senate chamber addressing this bill, by clicking [here](#) via the QR code below.



ENSURING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES HAVE BETTER ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Ensuring that rural and regional South Australians have access to quality health care remains one of my key priorities.

I hold regular meetings with Kim Hosking, CEO of Country SA Primary Health Network (PHN) to keep up to date with key issues affecting regional South Australia. It was good to have the opportunity to meet Mr Hosking in Whyalla with Rowan Ramsey MP, Member for Grey recently.

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia provides another good opportunity to get feedback on policy and funding priorities to meet the health needs of South Australian communities. A recent roundtable in Canberra enabled me to meet with Australia's National Rural Health Commissioner Professor Paul Worley and SA country GP Dr Gerry Considine to discuss implementation of the National Rural Generalist Pathway program in SA (pictured).

News reports from February state that illicit drug use in SA is on the rise. One SA regional location recorded twice the national average

rate of drug use which highlights the difficulties facing some regional communities in accessing support.

You may recall that recently the Federal Liberal Government announced an additional \$20 million for SA Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centres.

Country SA PHN also announced recently, as part of their federally funded programs, that they will operate a GP training program to better equip rural GP's to diagnose and treat sexually transmitted infections, following a significant rise in STIs throughout South Australia and the nation. GPs currently diagnose approximately 65% of diagnoses throughout SA and Country SA PHN aims to provide rural doctors with the support and training they need to have an impact on reducing the state's infection rate.



OUT AND ABOUT



On February 26th I addressed key stakeholders at the launch of the 2019 Avalon International Airshow, highlighting the significant contribution that Australians have made to the development of manned flight.

The Airshow provides a substantial opportunity for Australian and international aviation and defence companies to collaborate with other suppliers, as well as to exhibit their products and services to a global market.



Joined the District Council of Yankalilla on Australia Day to celebrate new Australians receiving Citizenship and to recognise the extraordinary hard work and dedication from Daniel Oliver, who received the award for Young Citizen of the Year.



Marking the end of the four week initial military training period for the Academy's first-year midshipmen and officer cadets, I attended the Chief of the Defence Force Parade at ADFA.

Joined by the Chief of the Defence Force and the ADFA community, the future ADF officers were officially welcomed to the Academy to start their journey as the newest members of the ADF.



Australia has a long standing relationship with nations in the South Pacific which is growing even stronger under the priorities of the Pacific Step Up.

It was good to discuss aspects of Defence cooperation with the Foreign Minister of Vanuatu, Hon Ralph Regenvanu MP in Canberra.



In a rapidly changing world with complex challenges, it was good to meet with the Chiefs of Air Forces from around the world, while in Geelong for the 2019 Avalon International Airshow, to discuss areas where increased cooperation will help underpin the stability of the global rules based order.



Pleased to witness another major milestone for the Attack Class Submarine with the signing of the Strategic Partnering Agreement between Australia and France. The \$50 billion Attack class program will see 12 regionally superior submarines built in Australia for the Navy and will help underpin our national security and provide careers for Australians for decades to come. Construction is planned to start in 2022-23 at the Osborne Naval Shipyard employing around 2,800 Australians each year.



I visited Woodside Barracks yesterday to meet with young women from the South Australian Aboriginal Netball Academy who took part in a unique ADF experience day, organised by Defence Recruiting. These young women were shown weapons handling, explored an air defence simulator, took part in a military-style obstacle course and learnt the military fundamentals of resilience, mateship, leadership and teamwork.

For more on the Senator's priorities and activities, like [@senatorfawcett](https://www.facebook.com/senatorfawcett) on Facebook.





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