



FEDERAL ELECTION

BE INDEPENDENT - VOTE 1 - DR. RUFF

Dear Resident

The modern political environment is increasingly being degraded by the cult of personality. Style “Trumps” substance in the failing Liberal/Labor two-party system. I believe I can bring particular expertise to the Federal Parliament as opposed to the usual party apparatchiks.

As a Senior Orthopaedic Surgeon at The Royal North Shore Hospital I am acutely aware of the issues raised by the Minister for Health that “30% of spending on health has been wasted”. This amounts to an incredible 46 billion dollars/annum and must be relentlessly pursued.

Of particular concern is the huge rise in unregulated gap payments in the private sector. These charges are arbitrary and unregulated. They are one of the major concerns of the President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

The solution to lower gap payments is better governance and reducing opportunities for greed.

While the health and the future of The Royal North Shore Hospital are of major concern to the electorate many other concerns are set out in this brochure.

The Liberal Party is heading in the wrong direction in Defence, debt, housing, city freeways, open cut coal and coal seam gas. The adoption of retrospective legislation for superannuation and housing (by removing the right of permanency that previously existed for all strata owners) is outrageous.

Finally, channelling Mr Turnbull – Frankly, it’s never been so exciting as to be Independent.

**IF YOU CAN HELP
IN ANY WAY CALL
0429 391 036**

For more information see <http://drsuff.org> or follow us on Facebook <http://sruff.org>

DOUBLE DISILLUSION - VOTE 1 - DR. RUFF

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BIOGRAPHY

- Stephen Ruff has helped some 20,000 residents of the North Sydney Federal Electorate over the last 34 years from his practice at North Shore Hospital.
- He graduated from the University of Sydney with 1st Class Honours and is now one of the leading orthopaedic surgeons in the nation.
- He is married with five children and has lived around the Lower North Shore in several locations.
- He has never been a member of a political party.
- We have the opportunity of electing such a person when so many seats are offered to political apparatchiks looking to ride the “gravy train”.
- Only someone who is part of the community can properly represent you.



DON'T WASTE YOUR VOTE

- Stephen Ruff is committed to helping every resident with individual concerns and representing the majority of the electorate on broader issues.
- Political Party representatives can not represent you. They can only vote as they are told by the factions, whips and the interests that fund the party – irrespective of your views or even their own.
- Only a true independent with no ties to vested interests can truly represent the electorate.
- An independent is free to raise important issues and take initiatives avoided by the parties.

DOUBLE DISILLUSION

- Factional warfare and leadership struggles are endemic – six prime ministers in nine years, six premiers in 11 years.
- Federal Liberals watched the previous Labor government destroy itself with leadership struggles, political donations and pandering to special interests. Yet they are following the same path. State liberals are also matching the previous Labor Government in courting suicide.
- Former Judge Tony Fitzgerald (who chaired the 1987 Queensland Royal Commission into political corruption) on 16 June 2013 wrote in The Australian newspaper “The body politic is rotten”. He stated “There are about 800 politicians in Australia’s parliaments. According to their assessments of each other, that quite small group includes role models for lying, cheating, deceiving, ‘rorting’, bullying, rumour-mongering, back stabbing, slander, leaking, dog whistling, nepotism and corruption”.
- For at least 30 years obfuscation and rules on so-called political donations have been passed to supposedly restrict them. Yet they have hugely increased as have “freedom from information laws”. Today many decisions in parliament are made by special interest groups outside parliament. Secrecy is the essential element of corruption.
- A recent example is the monstrous decision to force increased sales of ethanol on behalf of the state’s virtual sole supplier after its huge financial contributions to Federal and State Liberal parties and supported by Labor. This effectively means the closure of all garages that do not sell ethanol. A massive betrayal of liberalism.
- This is matched by the coup d’etat in local government virtually ending 150 years of local democracy in NSW as a result of the many millions of dollars from the development industry. Local government has many problems mainly created by the State Government, but size is not one of them.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY RESIDENTS ONLY

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CAR CRASH

- The present Liberal Government made a decision effectively to close down the car industry in Australia. Such a decision, to close a substantial part of Australia's manufacturing capacity is unprecedented in the history of Australia. Its rationality was the need to remove a subsidy of around \$500 million/year.
- A study by the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research concludes that Australia is expected to suffer a fall in national employment of around 200,000 as a result of the planned closure of motor vehicle manufacturing between now and 2017.
- Regional job losses will be Victoria – 98,500, NSW – 32,500, Queensland – 30,000, SA – 24,000, WA – 11,250 and NT – 421.
- Econometric modelling forecasts a negative annual shock of \$29 billion or more by 2017.
- The motor vehicle industry is the main conduit for the introduction into Australia of advanced technology and the training of labour in the necessary skills. The ending of this conduit will increase the costs for other complex manufacturing industries no doubt leading to other plant closures.
- Another report was that by Allen Consulting Group and Monash University researchers. It concluded that if Australia lost its automotive manufacturing, GDP would be \$7.3 billion lower by 2018.
- In fact the report found that the subsidy to the car industry equates to about \$18/person (deemed a very low figure by international standards) whereas the benefit of the industry is \$934/person.
- The Government has now realised that this massive increase in unemployment and reduction of \$29 billion now risks a loss of almost all seats in SA. It has now decided that the SA industries that it said not long ago "could not be trusted to build a canoe" be given \$89 billion for the construction of naval vessels.

DEFENCE

- The recent Defence White Paper assumes that our role as "deputy sheriff" will continue in the future as in the past, virtually ignoring the fact that China will become the largest economy and strongest military power in the world in a few years.
- The White Paper calls for an unprecedented expenditure of \$450 billion over the next decade. The main items are the purchase of 76 of the most expensive jet fighters in the world at \$32 billion – even the pilots' helmets are \$400,000. The plane has been dogged by design and cost over runs since 2006. In 2012 the cost/plane for the US fleet was \$618 million/plane for lifetime cost. In 2014 the program in the USA was \$163 billion over budget and seven years behind schedule.
- The 12 submarines are estimated at a lifetime cost of \$150 billion and will provide 2,800 jobs in Adelaide according to Malcolm Turnbull. The car industry cost \$15 billion for the same period and provided 24,000 jobs in SA and 200,000 nationally.
- It is incredible that Australia should contemplate such enormous expenditure on what is World War 2 technology particularly given the financial disaster of the F111 for 40 years and the Collins Class submarines for the last 25 years.
- Future wars will be cyber wars with missiles, anti-missile defence and drones. No major wars are on the horizon. Defence industries should be developed to ensure as much as possible expenditure stays in Australia.
- Defence forces should also be equipped to take a major role in natural disasters both in Australia and in our Pacific sphere of influence.

TRANSPORT

- The population of Australia's major cities is set to double within possibly 40 years. The construction of expressways to the centres is futile. All available funds should go to mass transit with a gradual removal, of all subsidies to private car use. Jobs must be decentralized.

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EDUCATION

- The Gonski reforms should be adopted. University fees should remain largely as existing. However huge administrative salaries should be reduced. Reduction of TAFE courses should stop particularly given the proliferation of private immigration and training scams.

ENVIRONMENT

- No further open cut mining or coal gas drilling should be permitted in residential or good agricultural land. Our long-term future as the food bowl of Asia is more important than coal. Nothing can replace the loss of agricultural land in the Hunter Valley or the Liverpool Plains.

POPULATION

- Australia's population is increasing currently at about 300,000/annum the highest pro rata in the world. This is putting severe economic strain on infrastructure and the environment. Yet it is futile to claim that Australia cannot carry a larger population given that Taiwan has the same population as Australia and fits into Tasmania twice.

ENERGY

- Recent development of battery storage as a supplement to solar panels should be encouraged. Restrictions should be placed on the export of natural gas to ensure local supply. Subsidies for coal should also be phased out and renewable resources encouraged.

REFUGEES

- With many millions of people seeking refuge and a better life, Australia cannot have an open door policy. Nevertheless Nauru, Manus and Christmas Islands are humanitarian and economic disasters. Alternative policies must be devised.

PUBLIC VALUES

- Values should not be imposed on the community by MPs, academics or lawyers. Few if any MPs have mandates from their electorates. Public values should only be established in law by plebiscites.

TAX

- The "god" of tax reform lies in re-assessing the myriad tax exemptions and the removal of secrecy. Superannuation, capital gains and company tax, negative gearing, family trusts and multinationals tax must be reassessed for fairness.

TRADE

- Free trade is essential but multinational companies should not be permitted to overrule the Australian legal system or reduce national sovereignty.

AUSTRALIA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM IS BROKEN

The domination by the two-party winner-take-all system has produced the second best democracy that money can buy as evidenced by:-

- PARTISAN SPEAKERS:** • Parliament can never be run properly by the current system. Speakers should be appointed from the Federal Court.
- MINISTERIAL FAILURE:** • Ministers should be drawn from the whole community. The present system is a proven failure.
- PUBLIC SERVICE:** • Now heavily politicised with partisan appointments. An independent public service is required with all appointed on merit.
- EXECUTIVE DOMINATION:** • One-party dominance makes parliament irrelevant. War can be declared and treaties signed without reference to Parliament.
- SELF-REGULATION:** • Relentless increase in "staffers", politicians' salaries, perks and siphoning of public funds for private party purposes.
- SINGLE-MEMBER ELECTORATES:** • Ensures the will of the people is distorted, branch stacking, pork barrelling and minorities repressed.

MAKE THE 2ND JULY INDEPENDENCE DAY

