



# The Catholic Weekly





## INFORMED VOTER'S ELECTION 2022 GUIDE

IN THE 13 March 2022 edition of the Catholic Weekly, the Voting for the Common Good election guide contributed to by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney's Justice and Peace Office was highlighted. It deals with issues such as aged care, disability, mental health, refugees and asylum seekers,

Indigenous Australians, housing affordability and caring for our common home and is available at [justiceandpeace.org.au/election-2022/](http://justiceandpeace.org.au/election-2022/). Australia's Catholic Bishops also issued an election statement, Towards a Better Kind of Politics, addresses some of these issues as

well, but speaks also of palliative care, JobSeeker, religious discrimination and school choice and modern slavery. The statement is available at [catholic.org.au](http://catholic.org.au). To supplement these guides, the below considers the policies of the two major parties and two minor

parties in relation to the freedom of religion speech, refugees, euthanasia and the fate of babies born alive after an attempted abortion. Our hope is that using these three guides together will assist you in casting your vote in next week's election.

	 LIBERAL NATIONALS	 Labor	 THE GREENS	 PAULINE HANSON'S one NATION
Does the party support the introduction of a Religious Discrimination Bill?	Yes, in the same form as originally introduced to Parliament.	Supports introducing protections against discrimination on the basis of religious belief or activity. Also supports combining all federal anti-discrimination laws into a single piece of legislation.	No. It will push for a Charter of Rights instead.	Yes, in the same form as originally introduced to Parliament.
Does the party support religious organisations, including schools, preferring staff of their own faith?	Yes, and will seek to override state laws preventing this (but only for religious educational institutions).	Yes.	Yes but only where a court or tribunal decides this is an 'inherent requirement' of the role.	Yes.
Does the party support religious organisations, including schools, refusing to employ or continue employing an openly gay or transgender staff member?	Will refer this matter to the Australian Law Reform Commission.	Will refer this matter to the Australian Law Reform Commission but have said Labor will seek to protect teachers from discrimination at work while maintaining the right of schools to preference staff of the same faith.	No.	Has not made a comment on this specific issue but has said that it will not accept "political activism and harassment against religious schools."
Will the party's proposal to remove so-called 'discrimination' against LGBT students affect the ability of religious schools to teach religious doctrine about marriage and family, gender and sexuality?	The Coalition has not made clear whether its undertaking to protect students against discrimination will affect religious teaching in religious schools.	Labor has committed to ensuring religious schools can continue to teach in accordance with their doctrine and will consult and carefully consider any consequential legislative amendments that may be required to ensure this occurs are matters.	Will remove the ability of religious schools to 'discriminate' without providing any protections for religious teaching. Will also replace the school chaplaincy programs with "anti-bullying" initiatives, eg Safe Schools.	Will oppose any attempts to remove existing protections for religious schools. Say that "gay and transgender students at these schools are not being discriminated against" and believes removal of protections could be used to attack religious schools.
Should statements of belief that are not malicious, vilifying, harassing or inciting violence be protected against anti-discrimination claims?	Yes.	Labor will only protect statements of belief against claims of religious discrimination, not other forms (eg on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.)	Does not support protections for statements of belief.	Yes (based on its support for the Religious Discrimination Bill as introduced).
Should an employee who makes a statement of religious belief outside of work hours be protected from disciplinary action?	Yes, in some circumstances.	Has not made public a policy on protection of employees.	Believes employer rules regarding statements made by employees should be 'necessary and proportionate.'	Yes, in some circumstances (based on its support for the Religious Discrimination Bill as introduced).
Should religious charities that express a traditional view of marriage be permitted to keep their charitable and tax-exempt status?	Yes. Will support amendments to the Charities Act to make this clear.	Has not made public a policy on charitable and tax-exempt status.	No.	Has not made public a policy on charitable and tax-exempt status.
Will the party vote in favour of allowing the NT and ACT to legalise euthanasia and assisted dying?	No.	Yes.	Yes.	No public policy but Senator Pauline Hanson voted in favour of a similar bill in 2018.
Does the party support changing federal laws that currently prohibit providing advice about assisted suicide over the phone or internet, eg via telehealth?	No.	Will seek legal advice on the matter.	No public statement made but based on pro-euthanasia policies, it is very likely the Greens support an amendment.	Has not made public a policy on this matter.
Does the party support federal legislation requiring babies born alive after attempted abortions to be given medical care?	No.	Has not made public a policy on this matter.	Has not made public a policy on this matter but NSW Greens spoke out against a similar provision.	Yes.
What is the party's refugee policy?	The Coalition will continue with offshore detention as well as the current humanitarian intake of 13,750 people each year and provide an additional 16,500 places over four years for refugees from Afghanistan.	Labor will maintain offshore detention and increase Australia's humanitarian intake to 27,000 each year.	The Greens will seek to abolish offshore detention, place a 7-day limit on onshore detention, increase Australia's humanitarian intake to 50,000 per year with an additional 4000 places for refugees from Afghanistan.	One Nation believes Australia should reduce its refugee intake for five years and use the money to fund critical Australian services. It also supports Australia withdrawing from the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees.