

# Progressive Atheists Inc.

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*Proud Member of Atheist Alliance International*

*Allied with Secular Coalition of Australia*



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Victorian State Election Candidate Survey - November 2014

## Candidate Comments - Question 5

**Question 5. Taxation Law:** are you in favour of changing laws effecting Church property trusts in order to free up funds to compensate survivors of child abuse?

**Animal Justice Party | Eastern Metropolitan Region | EDGECOMBE, Brenton**

I would need to do more research on this topic to give my answer, plus I don't know right now if there is a link between funds gained by changing church property trusts and money compensating survivors of child abuse.

**Animal Justice Party | Southern Metropolitan Region | WALSHE, Nyree**

Victims of church abuse should be compensated but I am not sure that tying this compensation to church property taxation is in the best spirit of supporting victims.

**Australian Christians | Evelyn District | de PYLE, Damien**

Firstly, I am against taxing churches which I assume is what the question is implying. In order to maintain the separation of Church and State which I would of assumed was the core of the Progressive Atheists Manifesto, then the State shouldn't tax the Church. This issue, though, is completely separate from compensating survivors of Child abuse.

**Australian Christians | Mount Waverley District | ZHENG, Stephen Chong**

I would support to free up church property funds only if this law would also apply to secular organisations and other religious organisations. I definitely believe that we should compensate survivors of child abuse, but to target the Church only would be unfair. I would see this as a double standard.

**Australian Christians | Western Metropolitan Region | ROGERS, Geoff**

unaware of the details of the issue with Trusts, but wary of any attempts to compensate victims of crime from State (Taxpayer) funds. Very difficult to determine a figure for what damage is reasonable to claim.

**Australian Country Alliance | Murray Plains District | WINN, Bryon**

Child abuse is abhorrent and I would support any moves to protect vulnerable people.

**Australian Country Alliance | Ripon District | DOMASCHENZ, Trevor**

Compensation for victim's of child abuse I struggle to know what you mean.

**Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Cranbourne District | PERERA, Jude**

Labor has committed to implementing the recommendations from the Family and Community Development Committee's inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other non-government organisations. This includes the recommendations relating to the legal identity of non-government organisations.

Media Release –

<https://www.viclabor.com.au/media-releases/labor-will-implement-betrayal-of-trust-report-in-full/>

**Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Dandenong District | WILLIAMS, Gabrielle;**

**Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Mill Park District | D'AMBROSIO, Lily;**

**Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Wendouree District | KNIGHT, Sharon**

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**Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Eltham District | WARD, Vicki**

I would like discussion of all the ways religious organisations can better compensate and support survivors of child abuse.

**Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Prahran District | PHARAOH, Neil**

I believe Church organisations should not be subject to the generous taxation concessions they currently received, however don't necessarily believe these funds should or should not be linked to any particular purpose.

**Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch | Western Victoria Region | EDWARDS, Dale**

Although funds should be primarily used to compensate survivors of child abuse, a broader taxation scheme upon church income sources could be used more broadly to benefit society. It is time that the church take responsibility for the damage it causes individuals and society.

**Independent | Bayswater District | CARBONARI, John**

Compensation is not the answer for victims of paedophiles.

**Independent | Pascoe Vale District | TIMPANO, Francesco**

The information provided is inadequate to make a yes/no response or I am yet to adopt a firm position on the issue and am undertaking further study/research and analysis before deciding.

**Independent | Eastern Victoria Region | DAVID, Jean-Michel**

Trust laws are independent and separate to compensation issues surrounding the tragedy of child abuse. I would need to look more carefully at the wider implications of altering trust laws before being able to best answer this question.