

# Progressive Atheists Inc

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*"Proud Member of Atheist Alliance International*

*Allied with Secular Coalition of Australia"*

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New South Wales State Election Candidate Survey

## Candidate Responses - Comments

March 2015

### Information Provided:

- Party Affiliation or Independent
  - Candidate Ballot Name
  - Locality
  - Comments from Survey
- 

Animal Justice Party AGLAND Joshua

NORDS WHARF

### **2. Special Religious Education: Do you oppose the continuation of Special Religious Education in public schools? OTHER**

Comment: On the basis that other education programs are given equal funding and promotion, in particular programs based on science and fact in regards to the ethics of eating animals as well as the effect it has on society and the environment.

### **iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin? OTHER**

Comment: Not if other programs as mentioned are given the same chance as SRE.

### **4. Comparative Religious Education: Do you support a ban on all religious activities in NSW public schools other than Comparative Religious Education? OTHER**

Comment: More discussions definitely need to be had in regards to what is being taught in such religious activities. Genuine compassion, ethics and equality for all beings should be taught.

### **6. Private Schools: Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: In principle yes, I think education needs to promote free thought and not be propagandised in any way.

**9. The Scientific Method: Do you support a ban on the teaching of creationism or intelligent design in science classes in schools? OTHER**

Comment: In principle no, although the ethics of killing, exploiting and eating animals must be discussed in a way that highlights it is not justifiable in our modern society.

**12. Constitutional Change: Do you support a positive affirmation of the diversity of belief systems and world views in the NSW Constitution? OTHER**

Comment: I whole heartedly support constitutional change that acknowledges the original keepers of this land as well as recognising sentient beings as free and equal and not 'things' to be owned and commodified.

**15. Abortion Laws: Abortion remains illegal in NSW. Do you favour repeal of sections 82, 83 and 84 of Crimes Act? OTHER**

Comment: I can not condone terminating the life of an innocent being, however I do believe in the freedom of choice and not having this freedom imposed on by any religion.

**19. Voluntary Euthanasia: Would you support a bill that allowed a terminally or incurably ill person the right to choose the manner and timing of their death, under strict safeguards, by providing humane medical assistance? OTHER**

Comment: Ethically yes, however strict protocol and safeguards must be formalised for all circumstances.

**20. Climate Change: South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: YES, more needs to be done to educate about the adverse affects of animal agriculture and human population growth on our environment.

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Australian Cyclists Party   VICE Pip   WAVERTON

**2. Special Religious Education: Do you oppose the continuation of Special Religious Education in public schools? OTHER**

Comment: As long as the religious education is balanced, teaches about ALL religions in a purely informative (i.e. not persuasive) way. All good.

**8. Conditional Funding: If state funding of religious schools were to continue, do you support the continued funding of schools that exploit the exemptions for religious institutions and schools in anti-discrimination legislation? OTHER**

Comment: Don't know what the exemptions are. Don't want to respond to this one without further info.

**3. Special Religious Education:** If Special Religious Education is to continue to be offered at NSW public schools -i. Would you endorse equal treatment of Special Education in Ethics in all information sent to parents? OTHER

Comment: I'd need to see what your idea of equal treatment is.

**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin?** OTHER

Comment: If the parents were there to collect them, then most likely yes.

**8. Conditional Funding:** If state funding of religious schools were to continue, do you support the continued funding of schools that exploit the exemptions for religious institutions and schools in anti-discrimination legislation? OTHER

Comment: I'd like to see what you mean by exploit

**10. Vaccination Exemptions:** Do you support removing the religious exemption clauses in the compulsory vaccination provisions in the Public Health Act? OTHER

Comment: depends on which vaccinations

**12. Constitutional Change:** Do you support a positive affirmation of the diversity of belief systems and world views in the NSW Constitution? OTHER

Comment: positive affirmation of any world view or belief system ??

**14. Taxation Law:** Are you in favour of changing laws affecting Church property trusts in order to free up funds to compensate survivors of child abuse? OTHER

Comment: If the individuals own church property, yes.

**15. Abortion Laws:** Abortion remains illegal in NSW. Do you favour repeal of sections 82, 83 and 84 of Crimes Act? OTHER

Comment: I oppose abortion, infanticide and murder

**16. Marriage Equality:** Do you support marriage equality for same sex couples? OTHER

Comment: The current federal law is sufficient. Adults can equally marry someone of the opposite sex, unless it's a sibling or they are already married

**18. Social Services:** Are you in favour of ensuring that there are adequate secular social service providers (such as aged care, health care and safety net service providers) to cater for the worldview diversity of service recipients? YES

Comment: adequate

**19. Voluntary Euthanasia: Would you support a bill that allowed a terminally or incurably ill person the right to choose the manner and timing of their death, under strict safeguards, by providing humane medical assistance? OTHER**

Comment: I support the Hippocratic oath

**20. Climate Change:South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: 2020 seems too short a time frame for 50-90%.

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

I am a Christian, and I find some of these questions short on detail to answer to my satisfaction.

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**Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group) CAINE Milton BIRMINGHAM GARDENS**

**3. Special Religious Education:If Special Religious Education is to continue to be offered at NSW public schools -i. Would you endorse equal treatment of Special Education in Ethics in all information sent to parents? OTHER**

Comment: I would need to see the proposed material

**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin? OTHER**

Comment: The timing of classes at schools is the hands of the school

**5. Religious Proselytising:Do you support a ban on religious organisations disseminating curriculum material to NSW public schools that is any way biased or seeking to promulgate a religious ideology? OTHER**

Comment: The purpose of sre is not to promote one faith over another it is to demonstrate the way the Bible can be a good foundation for moral choices

**6. Private Schools:Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: I support the voucher system where each child is allocated an amount for education that can be used at their choice of education

**7. Anti-discrimination Legislation:Should religious bodies (inc. publicly funded schools and hospitals) be allowed to discriminate in employment even when the religious observance or policies are not a genuine occupational qualification for that job? OTHER**

Comment: The employment in a religious or even a non religious occupation may require an ethos of life choices that may make it unwise for a person of a contrary belief structure to be employed there,

**8. Conditional Funding: If state funding of religious schools were to continue, do you support the continued funding of schools that exploit the exemptions for religious institutions and schools in anti-discrimination legislation?** OTHER

Comment: I do not support anyone exploiting some thing to obtain a benefit, but this may be subject to what is meant by the author of the question

**14. Taxation Law: Are you in favour of changing laws affecting Church property trusts in order to free up funds to compensate survivors of child abuse?** OTHER

Comment: This is a matter I need more information about but suffice to say each person must make restitution for any damage caused to others

**15. Abortion Laws: Abortion remains illegal in NSW. Do you favour repeal of sections 82, 83 and 84 of Crimes Act?** OTHER

Comment: I am not familiar with the acts refereed to

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

God Bless you all

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**Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)**

**HANNA Meena**

**WOODCROFT**

**8. Conditional Funding: If state funding of religious schools were to continue, do you support the continued funding of schools that exploit the exemptions for religious institutions and schools in anti-discrimination legislation?** OTHER

Comment: All individuals and institutions should be entitled to discriminate - this is the traditional approach to freedom of association, which has been fundamentally undermined by anti-discrimination provisions. The odds are that in this current social environment, discrimination would be an uncommon occurrence, as business owners and individuals are seeking out the best people on merit. However, the notion of free association is thoroughly lost and has been abrogated by anti-discrimination laws which force people who are not otherwise compatible to work together - facilitating government intervention in the private affairs of individuals.

**10. Vaccination Exemptions: Do you support removing the religious exemption clauses in the compulsory vaccination provisions in the Public Health Act?** OTHER

Comment: We should reform the current exemptions away from 'religious exemption' and 'conscientious exemption' to be a single exemption of 'informed consent'. The fundamental basis for allowing personal exemptions to vaccines arises out of the Nuremberg Trials and the emphasis on individual liberty. We seem to have forgotten this and have taken away the emphasis from 'informed consent' and the individual to a literal collectivist 'herd'. That is anti-Western in every sense of our culture.

**16. Marriage Equality: Do you support marriage equality for same sex couples? OTHER**

Comment: The High Court has recently confirmed that no state or territory will be able to legislate on same-sex marriage given the current definition of marriage under the Commonwealth Marriage Act as it would inherently be inconsistent.

**17. Domestic Violence: Are you in favour of providing increased funding to programs that are effective at preventing domestic violence and protecting survivors? OTHER**

Comment: Cultural reform must take a paramount importance to government intervention. There is no benefit to be had in simply funding programs where a culture does not address the root issue, nor where a lot of women would not be in a position to reach out. Therefore, any sort of funding intervention must coincide with policies which address the issue from a cultural perspective.

**18. Social Services: Are you in favour of ensuring that there are adequate secular social service providers (such as aged care, health care and safety net service providers) to cater for the worldview diversity of service recipients? OTHER**

Comment: You cannot force the provision of secular services. Currently, most charitable organisations in Australia have a Christian ethos and/or constitution. When Christian organisations reach out to the homeless - they do not do so on a discriminatory basis. They do not say "you must be Christian to be fed or clothed here." So I think this is really much ado about nothing and a way to thrust secularism when the market itself should play this out. I have never heard of any non-Christians refusing charitable services on the basis that their service provider was not secular.

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Whilst I acknowledge and appreciate that this survey is being facilitated by the Progressive Atheists Inc. I have a significant concern regarding the proposed government interventions. The proposed suggestions in this survey entirely undermine Western principles such as the emphasis on the individual, free market enterprise, limited government, Judeo-Christian legal frameworks, due process and other such features of Western civilization. This is in essence, a push for big government socialism, which inherently fosters injustices, corruption (as demonstrated by ICAC) and a collectivist approach over the emphasis on the individual and his/her liberty.

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**Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)    MODARELLI Don    GREEN VALLEY**

**12. Constitutional Change: Do you support a positive affirmation of the diversity of belief systems and world views in the NSW Constitution? OTHER**

Comment: I believe that Christians should not be the only worldview that is legally discriminated against.

**13. Mandatory Reporting Laws: Are you in favour of removing religious exemptions to the mandatory reporting of child abuse? OTHER**

Comment: There are no religious exemptions for the mandatory reporting of child abuse.

**14. Taxation Law: Are you in favour of changing laws affecting Church property trusts in order to free up funds to compensate survivors of child abuse? OTHER**

Comment: Why should churches be fined for child abuse cases? They have insurance just like everyone else.

**15. Abortion Laws: Abortion remains illegal in NSW. Do you favour repeal of sections 82, 83 and 84 of Crimes Act? OTHER**

Comment: Abortion should be banned in all but life-threatening cases.

**20. Climate Change: South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: We recycle already. I am in favor of ""solar freaking roadways"" and other radical, entrepreneurial ways of finding clean energy without taxing and wasting tax payers' money.

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

I believe that Creation through Intelligent Design should be mandatory in all years K-12.

The observed laws of science should not be set aside in order to teach a materialistic origin of life and the universe in order to suit the ""beliefs"" of pushy, narrow-minded, bigoted atheists.

If evolution wasn't so predominant in spite of its unscientific nature, I would even suggest allowing families to opt-in to evolutionary theory.

Since it is so prevalent, kids should be taught both theories so that they may be able to refute evolution when they are confronted with it.

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**Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)     ORDISH Carol SOUTH GRAFTON**

**5. Religious Proselytising: Do you support a ban on religious organisations disseminating curriculum material to NSW public schools that is any way biased or seeking to promulgate a religious ideology? OTHER**

Comment: The curriculum must be accepted by the Christian churches of NSW

**7. Anti-discrimination Legislation: Should religious bodies (inc. publicly funded schools and hospitals) be allowed to discriminate in employment even when the religious observance or policies are not a genuine occupational qualification for that job? OTHER**

Comment: Because they are religious it forms part of every position they have. You can't separate Christianity from any work in a Christian School or it would be a secular school.

**8. Conditional Funding: If state funding of religious schools were to continue, do you support the continued funding of schools that exploit the exemptions for religious institutions and schools in anti-discrimination legislation? OTHER**

Comment: Access not exploit is possibly the meaning here. Then yes!

**10. Vaccination Exemptions: Do you support removing the religious exemption clauses in the compulsory vaccination provisions in the Public Health Act? OTHER**

Comment: As religious exemption is being used as a way of avoiding vaccination it is not an appropriate reason to not vaccinate

**14. Taxation Law: Are you in favour of changing laws affecting Church property trusts in order to free up funds to compensate survivors of child abuse? OTHER**

Comment: Churches assist many people so it would not be fair or just to take away support from others when it is a person who is the perpetrator of a crime. You don't sue all the teachers in a school because one teacher committed a crime.

**20. Climate Change: South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: We must be sure the choices that are made will be able to support what is needed.

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

God bless you.

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**Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)   STRETTON Richard   WATTLE PONDS**

**14. Taxation Law: Are you in favour of changing laws affecting Church property trusts in order to free up funds to compensate survivors of child abuse? OTHER**

Comment: Yes in principal but the details of such a policy would be important and must be applied to all institutions and businesses.

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**Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)   THEW Leighton   CHERRYBROOK**

**5. Religious Proselytising: Do you support a ban on religious organisations disseminating curriculum material to NSW public schools that is any way biased or seeking to promulgate a religious ideology? OTHER**



Comment: I support disseminating Christian curriculum material, but not material of other religions that in conflict with our Western culture and Christian values.

**6. Private Schools:Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: NO to Christian faith schools, but oppose funding to schools that teach values that are in conflict with our Western culture and Christian values.

**8. Conditional Funding:If state funding of religious schools were to continue, do you support the continued funding of schools that exploit the exemptions for religious institutions and schools in anti-discrimination legislation? OTHER**

Comment: What do you mean by ""exploit""? This could mean (1) use legally for the intended purpose for the betterment of the community, or (2) use to extend a hidden agenda which is in conflict with our cultural values. I would support (1) but oppose (2).

**11. Prayers in Parliament:Do you support an end to prayers in parliament? NO**

Comment: Surely you are able to cope with a few minutes of prayer to commit parliamentary deliberations to Almighty God. Where's your level of ""tolerance"" in this tolerant country?

**14. Taxation Law:Are you in favour of changing laws affecting Church property trusts in order to free up funds to compensate survivors of child abuse? OTHER**

Comment: The 2 are separate issues. If the churches did not provide their social services to the community, the government would ultimately have to pick-up the costs or the community suffer. Unfortunately the perpetrators of child abuse can come from all walks of life, and the church is not exempt from a few bad individuals in its ranks too. Compensation to victims is a civil matter.

**16. Marriage Equality:Do you support marriage equality for same sex couples? OTHER**

Comment: Contrary to the rhetoric that is constantly pushed at us, there is already full equality in marriage for ALL Australians. However, the participants must QUALIFY. Each must be 'of age', not a close relative, single, of the opposite sex, etc. Homosexuals are free to marry if they qualify. Clearly, this noisy lobby group wants to change the qualifications to suite their own agenda. This means they want inequality, others will be discriminated against, and the door will be opened to further changes to the Marriage Act e.g. polygamy, child brides, incest, etc. The time-proven social institution has been foundational in ALL societies throughout history, and the only satisfactory way that children can be raised by a mum and a dad. Who has the right to go tampering with it for their own purposes? For the evolutionists amongst us, if SSM was really a viable alternative, then the evolutionary process would have established it by now.

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Country Labor

KEEGAN David

PAMPOOLAH

**6. Private Schools:Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: The sudden withdrawal of funds from Catholic schools ,for instance ,would cause chaos ,because of the large number of pupils involved.Iagree with limits on funding of non government schools

**13. Mandatory Reporting Laws:Are you in favour of removing religious exemptions to the mandatory reporting of child abuse? YES**

Comment: Unequivocally yes'!

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Country Labor O'BRIEN Debra ARMIDALE

**2. Special Religious Education:Do you oppose the continuation of Special Religious Education in public schools? OTHER**

Comment: They should not be mandatory. I would welcome the choice of ethics classes or even critical thinking classes.

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Country Labor STEPHENS Ursula BAW BAW

**7. Anti-discrimination Legislation:Should religious bodies (inc. publicly funded schools and hospitals) be allowed to discriminate in employment even when the religious observance or policies are not a genuine occupational qualification for that job? OTHER**

Comment: There are situations where cultural or religious understanding are an important part of the service - ie Moslem death rites

**8. Conditional Funding:If state funding of religious schools were to continue, do you support the continued funding of schools that exploit the exemptions for religious institutions and schools in anti-discrimination legislation? OTHER**

Comment: There are a range of schools that have a religious base that do not 'exploit' exemptions.

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Independent ARMS Luke CARDIFF

**1. School Chaplaincy Program:Do you oppose the NSW state government continuing to fund the School Chaplaincy Program using Federal Funds? OTHER**

Comment: Despite well-documented problems with particular chaplains in a small number of schools, I believe the School Chaplaincy Program has represented excellent ""bang for buck"" in terms of delivering a significant boost to the level of pastoral care available to students in our schools. I would hate to see this funding removed, but I would support schools having a choice between spending it on faith-based chaplains and secular professionals. I would also support more stringent requirements on chaplain qualifications and the removal of ""Chaplaincy"" from the name of the program.

**2. Special Religious Education: Do you oppose the continuation of Special Religious Education in public schools? OTHER**

Comment: I don't think "secular" should be confused with "atheistic". I'm all for secular public schools, but in my view this doesn't exclude a "spiritual" contribution to school life--whether this is ethics classes, Christian scripture or another option. School communities should be free to choose the options offered and parents should be free to choose what their children participate in. There should no favour given to any particular offering in terms of government funding--classes should be offered by self-funded groups and volunteers, and proselytising should continue to be forbidden.

**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin? OTHER**

Comment: I would want to consult with school communities on this before forming a policy. My concern would be creating unnecessary division between students.

**7. Anti-discrimination Legislation: Should religious bodies (inc. publicly funded schools and hospitals) be allowed to discriminate in employment even when the religious observance or policies are not a genuine occupational qualification for that job? OTHER**

Comment: As one example, a Christian school that is forced to employ non-Christians ceases to function as a Christian school. Most Christian school operators would shut down before accepting non-Christian employees. Removing anti-discrimination exemptions for these organisations will result in a huge number of private sector closures. It's not economically viable for the public sector to absorb all of these students/patients/etc., so I don't support this move. I do support removing anti-discrimination exemptions for end-users, however--Christian schools and hospitals should be required to accept non-Christian students and patients, for example.

**8. Conditional Funding: If state funding of religious schools were to continue, do you support the continued funding of schools that exploit the exemptions for religious institutions and schools in anti-discrimination legislation? OTHER**

Comment: I'm not aware of what you mean by "exploitation" of these exemptions.

**9. The Scientific Method: Do you support a ban on the teaching of creationism or intelligent design in science classes in schools? OTHER**

Comment: I'm happy for it to be taught in religious education classes, but it shouldn't receive significant airtime in science classes.

**10. Vaccination Exemptions: Do you support removing the religious exemption clauses in the compulsory vaccination provisions in the Public Health Act? OTHER**

Comment: Eligibility for religious exemption should be tightened and it should be attached to substantial punitive measures (e.g. ineligibility for welfare) but I don't think it should go further than that.

**11. Prayers in Parliament: Do you support an end to prayers in parliament? OTHER**

Comment: Don't care enough either way to have an opinion.

**12. Constitutional Change: Do you support a positive affirmation of the diversity of belief systems and world views in the NSW Constitution? OTHER**

Comment: I haven't seen evidence that this represents a meaningful or necessary reform.

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**Independent BAANSTRA Stuart REDFERN**

**6. Private Schools: Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: They must not discriminate

**12. Constitutional Change: Do you support a positive affirmation of the diversity of belief systems and world views in the NSW Constitution? OTHER**

Comment: Not sure what question means

**16. Marriage Equality: Do you support marriage equality for same sex couples? OTHER**

Comment: The term ""equality"" is deceptive. Gay marriage is not equality as long as religious groups may be exempt from marrying gay people. There's no such exemption for heterosexual couples.

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**Independent BENNETT Tony COFFS HARBOUR**

**8. Conditional Funding: If state funding of religious schools were to continue, do you support the continued funding of schools that exploit the exemptions for religious institutions and schools in anti-discrimination legislation? OTHER**

Comment: Not sure of the ramifications of this approach. I would need to consider it further.

**9. The Scientific Method: Do you support a ban on the teaching of creationism or intelligent design in science classes in schools? OTHER**

Comment: I am not aware of this teaching

**14. Taxation Law: Are you in favour of changing laws affecting Church property trusts in order to free up funds to compensate survivors of child abuse? OTHER**

Comment: I am unaware as to what laws are relating to churches property trusts

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**Independent BRIX-NIELSEN Alain EPPING**

**3. Special Religious Education: If Special Religious Education is to continue to be offered at NSW public schools -i. Would you endorse equal treatment of Special Education in Ethics in all information sent to parents? OTHER**

Comment: Should Ethics be taught in Public Schools I would like to see the Ethics classes actually conducted by trained educators and not volunteers.

**ii. Would you endorse changing Special Religious Education from opt-out to opt-in? OTHER**

Comment: Opt-In should be the preferred method of canvassing interest. It is after all a very personal choice.

**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin? OTHER**

Comment: SRE or Ethics are neither part of the school curriculum. Options for both or none should be offered.

**4. Comparative Religious Education: Do you support a ban on all religious activities in NSW public schools other than Comparative Religious Education? OTHER**

Comment: The question is too broad given our western cultural history.

**5. Religious Proselytising: Do you support a ban on religious organisations disseminating curriculum material to NSW public schools that is any way biased or seeking to promulgate a religious ideology? OTHER**

Comment: No group or organisation (religious or otherwise) should promulgate any form of ideology by disseminating curriculum material.

**6. Private Schools: Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: School funding should continue, however, it must be more equitable.

**9. The Scientific Method: Do you support a ban on the teaching of creationism or intelligent design in science classes in schools? OTHER**

Comment: Teaching creationism or intelligent design should not be taught as fact. A philosophical approach would be preferable

**10. Vaccination Exemptions: Do you support removing the religious exemption clauses in the compulsory vaccination provisions in the Public Health Act? OTHER**

Comment: I would need to be more familiar with that provision of the Public Health Act before responding

**14. Taxation Law: Are you in favour of changing laws affecting Church property trusts in order to free up funds to compensate survivors of child abuse? OTHER**

Comment: Laws affecting trusts in terms of compensation for survivors of child abuse should be applied equally across all forms of property trusts.

**20. Climate Change:South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: We need to reconsider a raft of issues and restructure and legislate to allow greater diversity of energy suppliers including co-operatives who are able to use or on-sell excess energy. Step one - no sale or multiple generational lease on public utilities,

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Thanks for the opportunity to broadly answer your survey.

In addition to the above issues; encouraging voters to #Vote15Below to genuinely make their vote and preferences count.

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**Independent BYRT T KIRRIBILLI**

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Thank you for putting together this survey.

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**Independent COOLEY Tucky PENRITH**

**ii. Would you endorse changing Special Religious Education from opt-out to opt-in? OTHER**

Comment: It should be a persons choice whether to opt in or opt out

**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin? OTHER**

Comment: children should remain in school i believe that all children should have a healthy respect for all religions and taught basic understanding of them note all religions are not covered in school system

**4. Comparative Religious Education:Do you support a ban on all religious activities in NSW public schools other than Comparative Religious Education? OTHER**

Comment: my answer is no unless it was going to harm other people then that would be yes

**6. Private Schools:Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: would need to look into that as i currently not sure what costs are

**7. Anti-discrimination Legislation: Should religious bodies (inc. publicly funded schools and hospitals) be allowed to discriminate in employment even when the religious observance or policies are not a genuine occupational qualification for that job? OTHER**

Comment: there should be flexibility with employers and but a person must complete full hrs of duty so employers do not lose out either as it should be done in their time employers have to pay for no work performance

**19. Voluntary Euthanasia: Would you support a bill that allowed a terminally or incurably ill person the right to choose the manner and timing of their death, under strict safeguards, by providing humane medical assistance? OTHER**

Comment: that should be put to referendum or should be case by case

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**Independent DEVI Indira BLACKTOWN**

**6. Private Schools: Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: This would depend on how much is funded

**15. Abortion Laws: Abortion remains illegal in NSW. Do you favour repeal of sections 82, 83 and 84 of Crimes Act? OTHER**

Comment: No comment as this is an individual decision

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Appears to be an honest down to earth question

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**Independent HAGGERTY James ENMORE**

**14. Taxation Law: Are you in favour of changing laws affecting Church property trusts in order to free up funds to compensate survivors of child abuse? OTHER**

Comment: Don't know enough about how the trusts are structured and how big an issue this is.

**18. Social Services: Are you in favour of ensuring that there are adequate secular social service providers (such as aged care, health care and safety net service providers) to cater for the worldview diversity of service recipients? OTHER**

Comment: I would like this; whether it's feasible for the government to 'ensure' it, on the other hand...

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

My responses are my own and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Group M ticket (i.e. the Future Party - [www.futureparty.org.au](http://www.futureparty.org.au)).

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**Independent HOOD Alan KELLYVILLE**

**ALL QUESTIONS: OTHER**

Comment: I will support the elected government in their pre election policy

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

As you may be aware by now, my platform is to support the smooth operation of government through the upper house with legislation that has been presented to the electorate before the election. Other issues will be decided upon with a view to their consistency with pre election policy. Any new policy that suffers from significant public disapproval will not be supported.

On a different note, my personal views may sometimes be at odds with my voting position due to my decision to uphold the democratic process of the election. With regards to religious views, I regard ardent atheists as being a part of a religion as well.

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**Independent LOPEZ Steven MERRYLANDS**

**1. School Chaplaincy Program: Do you oppose the NSW state government continuing to fund the School Chaplaincy Program using Federal Funds? OTHER**

Comment: I wouldn't if they funded other programs like Ethics classes equally.

**2. Special Religious Education: Do you oppose the continuation of Special Religious Education in public schools? OTHER**

Comment: See above.

**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin? OTHER**

Comment: I would really prefer that an alternative be offered instead so this way children can be productive and not opt-out just to go home a little earlier. I'm young, it's what I would do! :)

**6. Private Schools: Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: Yes and No, there are certain circumstances where funding a private school may be necessary and we should look at the school's needs and services it provides.

**11. Prayers in Parliament: Do you support an end to prayers in parliament? OTHER**

Comment: I feel neither for or against on this.



**14. Taxation Law:Are you in favour of changing laws affecting Church property trusts in order to free up funds to compensate survivors of child abuse? OTHER**

Comment: I don't feel I know enough on matters like this to make a decision.

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**Independent MEAD ClintonBRADBURY**

**1. School Chaplaincy Program:Do you oppose the NSW state government continuing to fund the School Chaplaincy Program using Federal Funds? OTHER**

Comment: I oppose the Federal program, but have no issue with the NSW Government using the funding offered. I would encourage the Federal Government to abandon the program entirely and return the funding either in tax cuts or in untied grants to the state.

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**Independent NUTHALL Ramsay GOSFORD**

**3. Special Religious Education:If Special Religious Education is to continue to be offered at NSW public schools -i. Would you endorse equal treatment of Special Education in Ethics in all information sent to parents? OTHER**

Comment: I actually think that both ethics and religious education should be combined. This would need significant changes in the current system. Can I suggest at this stage that the questions of this survey seem to lack a deeper awareness of the issues. There needs to be a whole new approach to these matters.

**ii. Would you endorse changing Special Religious Education from opt-out to opt-in? OTHER**

Comment: We need to make a clear distinction between (in simplistic terms) good religion and bad religion. Every child needs to know the underlying stories, legends and mythologies which formed our culture. It is from these stories, legends and mythologies that we draw our archetypes (positive and negative), gain out appreciation of our civilisations concepts of morality and how they evolved, and gain our appreciation of paradox and contradiction etc. The problem arises when doctrine rather than story becomes the focus of religious education. Story belongs in schools, doctrine belongs elsewhere.

**6. Private Schools:Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: This horse bolted fifty years ago. Good luck. That being said, I still have a belief that education should be free, compulsory and secular (secular in the real sense, not as it is commonly uses today).

**12. Constitutional Change:Do you support a positive affirmation of the diversity of belief systems and world views in the NSW Constitution? OTHER**

Comment: I would need to research this before offering an opinion.

**15. Abortion Laws: Abortion remains illegal in NSW. Do you favour repeal of sections 82, 83 and 84 of Crimes Act? OTHER**

Comment: Before any change in this area we would need to have a thorough look at what is happening now. My fear is that this issue become the monster it is in the USA where extremism seems to have hijacked balanced opinion.

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

I am a Progressive Christian, and as such value the hopefully disciplined thinking of non-fundamentalist, non-literalist atheists.

Putting aside the meta-physics of divinity or the spiritual, our common focus must be the nature of the human being, us, the being through which we all experience life, consciousness and the universe.

The importance of this this has come into significant focus with the issues arising from fundamentalist Islam from which movements like Islamic State arise. We have not been as conscious as we could have been regarding the ravages of fundamentalist Christianity on our own culture.

The blurb for Richard Holloway's fascinating book 'Between the Monster and the Saint', says: ""Being human isn't easy. We might think that consciousness and freedom will give us control over our lives but our minds are dangerous and unpredictable places. We are susceptible to forces we don't understand. We are capable of inflicting immense cruelty on one another - violence, torture and rape - and yet we also have the capacity to be tender, to empathise, to feel.""

As human beings, we are hearers and tellers of story, lovers of legend and delighted revellers in the grand gallery of mythologies both ancient and modern. Out of tribalism and ignorance we so often descend into dangerous superstition and magical thinking; our saving grace as a species being that as yet underdeveloped capacity for reason.

The antidote to bad religion is not no-religion, but rather a well furnished inner mansion of dream, story and reason that guides and moderates our heroic quests and enables our either materialist or metaphysical search for meaning; our spirituality.

Well educated and well formed School Chaplains? Yes.

Lunatics in School Chaplaincy? No.

In this regard, see Spiritual Care Australia - Standards of Practice  
<http://www.spiritualcareaustralia.org.au/styled-11/index.html>

**Independent OSBORNE Chris WAITARA**

**1. School Chaplaincy Program: Do you oppose the NSW state government continuing to fund the School Chaplaincy Program using Federal Funds? YES**

Comment: Separation of church and state.

**2. Special Religious Education: Do you oppose the continuation of Special Religious Education in public schools? NO**

Comment: Should be voluntary & optional

**6. Private Schools: Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: I still support state aid to systemic Catholic schools.

**11. Prayers in Parliament: Do you support an end to prayers in parliament? OTHER**

Comment: This should be said by a priest rotated through the different denominations.

**15. Abortion Laws: Abortion remains illegal in NSW. Do you favour repeal of sections 82, 83 and 84 of Crimes Act? OTHER**

Comment: There is no need to change the status quo as abortions can still be procured without being charged

**16. Marriage Equality: Do you support marriage equality for same sex couples? OTHER**

Comment: I personally don't support it but if my electorate was to express a majority view that I should vote for it I would.

---

**Independent PRYOR Rod MUDGE**

**11. Prayers in Parliament: Do you support an end to prayers in parliament? OTHER**

Comment: ambiguous question what type of prayers. anyone crazy enough to go into politics may need to pray to some god or another at some time.

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**Independent RORRIS Arthur MANGERTON**

**2. Special Religious Education: Do you oppose the continuation of Special Religious Education in public schools? YES**

Comment: Only if it includes a non religious option

**8. Conditional Funding: If state funding of religious schools were to continue, do you support the continued funding of schools that exploit the exemptions for religious institutions and schools in anti-discrimination legislation? OTHER**

Comment: It would depend on the particular schools, ie Catholic, Islamic and if they service disadvantaged communities

**13. Mandatory Reporting Laws:Are you in favour of removing religious exemptions to the mandatory reporting of child abuse? YES**

Comment: They are not exempt now

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**Independent SCEVOLA Sal ROOTY HILL**

**11. Prayers in Parliament:Do you support an end to prayers in parliament? NO**

Comment: Must be mulitfaith & no faith as well

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

I value the inclusiveness of our society of all sections of the community including the views of the Atheist lobby.

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**Independent STEFANAC Jennifer**

**10. Vaccination Exemptions:Do you support removing the religious exemption clauses in the compulsory vaccination provisions in the Public Health Act? OTHER**

Comment: Only on a case by case basis

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**Independent THALER Andrew NIMMITABEL**

**4. Comparative Religious Education:Do you support a ban on all religious activities in NSW public schools other than Comparative Religious Education? OTHER**

Comment: I dont understand the implication of your definition of ""comparative""

**10. Vaccination Exemptions:Do you support removing the religious exemption clauses in the compulsory vaccination provisions in the Public Health Act? OTHER**

Comment: This is hard.. respecting other religions requires us to understand and tolerate their views.. which may extend to allowing them an exemption from mandatory immunisation.

**11. Prayers in Parliament:Do you support an end to prayers in parliament? YES**

Comment: Prayers in Parliament is stupid and selective. not what parliament should be.

**14. Taxation Law:Are you in favour of changing laws affecting Church property trusts in order to free up funds to compensate survivors of child abuse? YES**

Comment: Churches are businesses these days and need to pay tax and land-rates just like my business does.

**15. Abortion Laws: Abortion remains illegal in NSW. Do you favour repeal of sections 82, 83 and 84 of Crimes Act? OTHER**

Comment: I'd have to read them in detail first before I answer this question.

**16. Marriage Equality: Do you support marriage equality for same sex couples? YES**

Comment: Of course I do.

**20. Climate Change: South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? YES**

Comment: Yep. I own one of the largest (mum and dad rated ownership) solar systems in Australia. Along with my wife we are operating around 560kW of PV

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

I represent Group P Independents in the NSW Upper House.

I oppose Coal Seam Gas (CSG) development and I oppose large scale coal mining- particularly those in food producing areas.

I am producing a documentary about Renewable Energy- including investigating the current level of RE development across Australia. If elected to NSW parliament, I would be the first genuine REnergy candidate in any Australian parliament. Please help me make a new 'first' and let me work for the environment and you.

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**Labor ACKERMAN Steve MOUNT COLAH**

**3. Special Religious Education: If Special Religious Education is to continue to be offered at NSW public schools -i. Would you endorse equal treatment of Special Education in Ethics in all information sent to parents? OTHER**

Comment: I only support Comparative Religious Studies. I support the teaching of ethics over religion.

**6. Private Schools: Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: Needs based funding only. Public schools must be a priority.

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**1. School Chaplaincy Program: Do you oppose the NSW state government continuing to fund the School Chaplaincy Program using Federal Funds? OTHER**

Comment: A social worker should be able to be employed if the school so desires.

**2. Special Religious Education: Do you oppose the continuation of Special Religious Education in public schools? OTHER**

Comment: I don't have a problem as long as ethics education is also allowed.

**ii. Would you endorse changing Special Religious Education from opt-out to opt-in? OTHER**

Comment: I believe parents already have a choice for their children to participate or not.

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**4. Comparative Religious Education: Do you support a ban on all religious activities in NSW public schools other than Comparative Religious Education? OTHER**

Comment: I don't object to celebrating religious festivals that have become cultural...in particular Christmas and Easter but I add Divali, Lunar New Year.

**7. Anti-discrimination Legislation: Should religious bodies (inc. publicly funded schools and hospitals) be allowed to discriminate in employment even when the religious observance or policies are not a genuine occupational qualification for that job? OTHER**

Comment: I first want ""religion"" defined and that only entities that preach religious tolerance being allowed to register as a religion.

**8. Conditional Funding: If state funding of religious schools were to continue, do you support the continued funding of schools that exploit the exemptions for religious institutions and schools in anti-discrimination legislation? OTHER**

Comment: See above

**19. Voluntary Euthanasia: Would you support a bill that allowed a terminally or incurably ill person the right to choose the manner and timing of their death, under strict safeguards, by providing humane medical assistance? OTHER**

Comment: I in general support the principle but have not yet satisfied myself how to ensure it is only the patient's suffering that counts not the suffering of the patient's family ( the I don't want to see Mum suffer set)

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**Labor RITCHIE Matt KENTHURST**

**1. School Chaplaincy Program: Do you oppose the NSW state government continuing to fund the School Chaplaincy Program using Federal Funds? OTHER**

Comment: Federal Funds for Guidance and Ethics should be used more broadly than ""Chaplaincy""

**9. The Scientific Method: Do you support a ban on the teaching of creationism or intelligent design in science classes in schools? OTHER**

Comment: Teachers should explain what it is.

**11. Prayers in Parliament: Do you support an end to prayers in parliament? OTHER**

Comment: I support it, but would not advocate for it

**15. Abortion Laws: Abortion remains illegal in NSW. Do you favour repeal of sections 82, 83 and 84 of Crimes Act? OTHER**

Comment: At this point, not qualified to comment

**20. Climate Change: South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: Targets are rather meaningless.

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**Labor SHAW James PARRAMATTA**

**ii. Would you endorse changing Special Religious Education from opt-out to opt-in? OTHER**

Comment: I believe that this is the case already.

**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin? OTHER**

Comment: Children who are not religious could attend ethics classes.

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**Outdoor Recreation Party WHELAN Peter GLENORIE**

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

The Outdoor Recreation Party (Group B on the Legislative Council ballot) is affiliated with the Liberal Democratic Party. Our Senator, David Leyonhjelm is on record in support of much of the topics covered.

**4. Comparative Religious Education: Do you support a ban on all religious activities in NSW public schools other than Comparative Religious Education? OTHER**

Comment: We support a secular education system in Australia, however Socialist Alliance commits to campaigning against any proposals to ban or limit by law the wearing of the hijab or burqa.

**20. Climate Change: South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: Yes we would support such a bill but the target would need to be 100% by 2020 to ensure a safe climate.

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

More Socialist Alliance policy information can be found at:

<http://www.socialist-alliance.org/policy>.

Thanks.

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**ii. Would you endorse changing Special Religious Education from opt-out to opt-in? OTHER**

Comment: not sure

**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin? OTHER**

Comment: at the discretion of parents

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**1. School Chaplaincy Program: Do you oppose the NSW state government continuing to fund the School Chaplaincy Program using Federal Funds? YES**

Comment: so long as there is funding for a counselling service in all schools in its place

**2. Special Religious Education: Do you oppose the continuation of Special Religious Education in public schools? YES**

Comment: the education system in NSW was set up on a secular basis - there is no room for religion in NSW schools



**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin? OTHER**  
Comment: if it must be maintained, it should be offered on the same basis as ethics alternatives. fair is fair but there is no room for religion in secular schools

**4. Comparative Religious Education: Do you support a ban on all religious activities in NSW public schools other than Comparative Religious Education? YES**  
Comment: no - if you want your kids to get religion, take them to church

**12. Constitutional Change: Do you support a positive affirmation of the diversity of belief systems and world views in the NSW Constitution? NO**  
Comment: no religious belief system should be acknowledged by our Parliaments - these are secular places and religion has no place there

**14. Taxation Law: Are you in favour of changing laws affecting Church property trusts in order to free up funds to compensate survivors of child abuse? YES**  
Comment: all churches should be paying ALL taxes

**15. Abortion Laws: Abortion remains illegal in NSW. Do you favour repeal of sections 82, 83 and 84 of Crimes Act? YES**  
Comment: if these sections relate to free access to abortion, then yes

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**The Greens   BARRATT Terry   BOMADERRY**

**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin? OTHER**  
Comment: I oppose SRE at any time of the day. Schools are not churches. They are for education not superstition.

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**The Greens   BOSCH Andre CAMPERDOWN**

**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin? OTHER**  
Comment: Yes, assuming still that alternatives are offered to students who may otherwise not be able to leave school early, or who parents believe may benefit from other activities or enrichment etc.

**4. Comparative Religious Education: Do you support a ban on all religious activities in NSW public schools other than Comparative Religious Education? OTHER**  
Comment: Yes, apart from SRE as previously discussed.

**6. Private Schools: Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: The Greens support only limited funding to these schools as would allow for equal opportunity across the board. Effectively, this ensures that students are not disadvantaged because of their parents' choices.

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**The Greens   BRENTIN Chris   DARLINGHURST**

**20. Climate Change: South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? YES**

Comment: Greens policy plans to move NSW to being powered by 100% renewable energies by 2030 and this is achievable.

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Thank you for contacting me in relation to these important issues.

The Greens believe strongly in equality for all and removing all exemptions in the NSW anti-discrimination act.

Chris Brentin.

Greens Candidate for Sydney.

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**The Greens   BRESSER Mitchell   CONISTON**

**9. The Scientific Method: Do you support a ban on the teaching of creationism or intelligent design in science classes in schools? OTHER**

Comment: I wouldn't as long as it was in comparative studies.

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**The Greens   CAVANAUGH Janet   WHIPORIE**

**20. Climate Change: South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: 100% by 2030

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**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin?** OTHER

Comment: I would not support losing class time. If they are missing school because the last period is religious, this is still not satisfactory. There needs to be an alternative that is universally available if they are going to teach ethics in a school framework.

**4. Comparative Religious Education: Do you support a ban on all religious activities in NSW public schools other than Comparative Religious Education?** NO

Comment: I am not a fan of 'bans'.

**6. Private Schools: Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools?** OTHER

Comment: It is not practical to stop it suddenly for financial reasons at present.

**8. Conditional Funding: If state funding of religious schools were to continue, do you support the continued funding of schools that exploit the exemptions for religious institutions and schools in anti-discrimination legislation?** OTHER

Comment: I would change the legislation to stop the exemption.

**13. Mandatory Reporting Laws: Are you in favour of removing religious exemptions to the mandatory reporting of child abuse?** OTHER

Comment: Are you sure such exists? The Archbishop of Adelaide seems to prove the opposite.

**14. Taxation Law: Are you in favour of changing laws affecting Church property trusts in order to free up funds to compensate survivors of child abuse?** OTHER

Comment: I am against the exemption on rates for religious organisations.

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**20. Climate Change: South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT?** YES

Comment: 100% renewable by 2030

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**2. Special Religious Education: Do you oppose the continuation of Special Religious Education in public schools?** OTHER

Comment: Would prefer not to say

**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin? OTHER**

Comment: Only if the same applied to Ethics classes.

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**The Greens   da COSTA Kate   UMINA BEACH**

**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin? OTHER**

Comment: This implies that Special Education in Ethics would be offered at another time than SRE, and I thought the intention was to offer SEE as an alternative. Additionally, class timetables should be up to principals and teachers, and I would support their decisions

**4. Comparative Religious Education: Do you support a ban on all religious activities in NSW public schools other than Comparative Religious Education? OTHER**

Comment: My party's policy is to seek such a ban, and I would certainly think that CRE is a necessary part of a curriculum, but am on the fence about banning all religious activities

**20. Climate Change: South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: 100% by 2030 in NSW

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these important issues. As an atheist working professionally with faith communities, I appreciate that this is a delicate area of social debate. However, a mature society should be able to manage this type of respectful discussion, while recognizing that in a secular society, our education system is not a vehicle for spiritual education - there is plenty of opportunity for parents and children to seek information about their faith from the appropriate organizations.

---

**The Greens   DIMOND Vicki   BERKELEY VALE**

**8. Conditional Funding: If state funding of religious schools were to continue, do you support the continued funding of schools that exploit the exemptions for religious institutions and schools in anti-discrimination legislation? OTHER**

Comment: I am sorry but I do not understand the question

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**20. Climate Change:South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: 100% by 2030.

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**6. Private Schools:Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: Wealthy private schools should not receive public funding

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**6. Private Schools:Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: Sufficient funds are now coming from Federal level such that NSW funding no longer necessary for such schools.

**11. Prayers in Parliament:Do you support an end to prayers in parliament? OTHER**

Comment: Support individual conscience on this issue.

**20. Climate Change:South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: 100% Renewable for NSW

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**8. Conditional Funding:If state funding of religious schools were to continue, do you support the continued funding of schools that exploit the exemptions for religious institutions and schools in anti-discrimination legislation? OTHER**

Comment: Please elaborate.

**13. Mandatory Reporting Laws:Are you in favour of removing religious exemptions to the mandatory reporting of child abuse? OTHER**

Comment: Are you kidding me!

---

**The Greens    GUISE Adam    NORTH LISMORE**

**1. School Chaplaincy Program: Do you oppose the NSW state government continuing to fund the School Chaplaincy Program using Federal Funds? OTHER**

Comment: There is meant to be a separation between religion & the state. Non-faith pastoral care should be funded

**2. Special Religious Education: Do you oppose the continuation of Special Religious Education in public schools? OTHER**

Comment: There is meant to be a separation between religion and the state. S Non-faith specific spiritual, ethics and civics classes should be taught.

**ii. Would you endorse changing Special Religious Education from opt-out to opt-in? OTHER**

Comment: There should be no faith specific teaching, but rather spirituality, ethics and civics classes in all schools.

**iii. Would you endorse conducting SRE at the end of the school day whilst giving parents the option to allow their children to leave the school before SRE classes begin? OTHER**

Comment: Ideally, all students should participate in ethics, spirituality and civics classes that is integrated across the curriculum.

**4. Comparative Religious Education: Do you support a ban on all religious activities in NSW public schools other than Comparative Religious Education? OTHER**

Comment: There is meant to be a separation of religion from the state. There should be non faith-specific teaching in all schools re spirituality, civics and ethics.

**6. Private Schools: Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: School funding should be sector/faith blind, based upon student need. Gonski went a long way to achieving this although it has been weakened by various vested interests. The Liberal-National party has walked away from their 'unity ticket' commitment to fund Gonski for the full 6 years.

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**The Greens    HEBER Brent    KINGSGROVE**

**20. Climate Change: South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: Greens policy is NSW 100% by 2030

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

I respect every Australian's right to practice their personal beliefs (as long as they do not affect others adversely) however Australia is a secular state. In order for all to have equality of opportunity it is vital that we clean up our laws and remove historical bias of previously dominant belief systems to ensure our modern multicultural community is allowed to flourish with all Australians on an equal footing in the eyes of our courts and parliament.

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**The Greens   HEYDE Emma CHELTENHAM**

**20. Climate Change:South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: Yes - 100% renewable energy by 2030.

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**The Greens   KAYE John   BRONTE**

**20. Climate Change:South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: 100% by 2030

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Thank you for asking questions that allow the Greens to show that we support a secular state, well separated from religious organisations.

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**The Greens   KAYE John George   DENMAN**

**6. Private Schools:Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: I would support the end of state funding to wealthy non-government schools

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Having worked in the State School System I have had to work in old mouldy smelling demountable classrooms while very wealthy schools continue to get government funding at the expense of the public system. I cannot justify any government funding going to wealthy private schools when public schools are in such need of basic maintenance, capital funding and funding for more teaching positions.

A school that has sporting facilities that include 15 playing fields, 14 tennis courts, 12 basketball courts (nine outdoor, three indoor), seven soccer fields, a 50-metre lap pool, a 25-metre swimming pool, a diving pool, and a gym under which there is an indoor rifle range, should not be getting any government funding at all.

---

**The Greens KING Niloufer OAKLANDS**

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

The Greens offer a viable alternative to the two old parties, more Greens in government will make a difference. Vote 1 the Greens for grass roots democracy, social justice and climate action and a brighter future.

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**The Greens LEONG Jenny NEWTOWN**

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Thank you.

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**The Greens MACFADYEN Ivan TERALBA**

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

People, need to wake up to the reality of climate change we are causing it and have no solid plan to end it.

If it continues unabated as it is, there will be no future for anyone. I understand people always vote for their perceived team. Voting in this way and expecting a different result is madness. It is time to vote to save mankind, vote for the alternatives don't vote for either of the two major parties.

---

**The Greens MARSHALL Peter CAPTAINS FLAT**

**1. School Chaplaincy Program: Do you oppose the NSW state government continuing to fund the School Chaplaincy Program using Federal Funds? YES**

Comment: Yes, the NSW government should insist on the funds being allowed to be used for secular counsellors.

**6. Private Schools: Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**



Comment: Yes, but this has to be a medium- to long-term goal, it couldn't happen overnight. It should start with reducing the funding of the richest schools.

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**The Greens   MEGGET Drusi   PORT MACQUARIE**

**6. Private Schools:Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: it is fair that some funding goes to existing religious schools as that saves the public system from educating those students. i am against allowing new religious schools to be opened because i don't think it is healthy to have children siphoned off away from the mainstream

**10. Vaccination Exemptions:Do you support removing the religious exemption clauses in the compulsory vaccination provisions in the Public Health Act? OTHER**

Comment: depends on the vaccination. i would allow Conscientious objection depending on the case.

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**The Greens   NAIRN Mick   CRONULLA**

**6. Private Schools:Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: Yes until such time as public schools are free, no school fees required.

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**The Greens   PERGER Margaret   MORUYA**

**1. School Chaplaincy Program:Do you oppose the NSW state government continuing to fund the School Chaplaincy Program using Federal Funds? YES**

Comment: Yes Greens oppose the program. We need properly qualified counselors to be providing the necessary support to children, families and teachers

**2. Special Religious Education:Do you oppose the continuation of Special Religious Education in public schools? OTHER**

Comment: It should not be at a time when other members of the class are getting their normal class teaching.

**4. Comparative Religious Education:Do you support a ban on all religious activities in NSW public schools other than Comparative Religious Education? OTHER**

Comment: I believe in choice but not one that involves some children being absent from class when normal teaching is still happening

**6. Private Schools: Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: Funding of non government schools should not be at the expense of government school funding. Taxpayer \$ should not go to wealthy private school for luxury facilities like swimming pools while local governments schools lack many basic facilities

**10. Vaccination Exemptions: Do you support removing the religious exemption clauses in the compulsory vaccination provisions in the Public Health Act? OTHER**

Comment: I think there should be requirements for Doctor counseling before allowing exemptions for any reason. Arbitrary bans can seem like reverse discrimination. Exclusion during period of infection is reasonable

**15. Abortion Laws: Abortion remains illegal in NSW. Do you favour repeal of sections 82, 83 and 84 of Crimes Act? OTHER**

Comment: Not sure what is in those sections but believe under certain conditions and with medical counseling they should be available.

**16. Marriage Equality: Do you support marriage equality for same sex couples? YES**

Comment: and all LGBTI couples

**17. Domestic Violence: Are you in favour of providing increased funding to programs that are effective at preventing domestic violence and protecting survivors? YES**

Comment: With proper specialist, experienced and qualified support especially in rural areas

**20. Climate Change: South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? YES**

Comment: YES YES YES

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**The Greens   PHILLIPS MaxASHFIELD**

**10. Vaccination Exemptions: Do you support removing the religious exemption clauses in the compulsory vaccination provisions in the Public Health Act? OTHER**

Comment: While I strongly support and encourage vaccination, I still think parents should have a choice to opt out.

**12. Constitutional Change: Do you support a positive affirmation of the diversity of belief systems and world views in the NSW Constitution? OTHER**

Comment: Not necessary

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

As an atheist, I am keen to ensure the separation of church and state.

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**The Greens   SCHULTZ Pat   ARMIDALE**

**2. Special Religious Education: Do you oppose the continuation of Special Religious Education in public schools? NO**

Comment: If religious education continues in public schools it should not be compulsory. Ethics should be an option. All religion should be included including Moslem, aboriginal spiritual studies and Hindu.

**4. Comparative Religious Education: Do you support a ban on all religious activities in NSW public schools other than Comparative Religious Education? NO**

Comment: Special religious days should be celebrated

**6. Private Schools: Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: I support the funding of alternative schools, but with the same restricted religious education as public schools.

**13. Mandatory Reporting Laws: Are you in favour of removing religious exemptions to the mandatory reporting of child abuse? YES**

Comment: There should never have been an exemption. A stupid exemption.

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**The Greens   STOREY John   HORNSBY**

**20. Climate Change: South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: 100% by 2030.

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**The Greens   SUTTIE Alice   BAULKHAM HILLS**

**20. Climate Change: South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: 100% by 2030

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**The Greens   SWEGEN Aleona   HAMILTON**

**20. Climate Change:South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: The Greens support a target of 100% by 2030.

**Please add any additional comments you may have regarding this survey or the survey questions in the text box below. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

I consider myself a progressive atheist but more importantly I firmly believe in secular government. Some of the laws, practices and exemptions currently in place with relation to religious institutions are atrocious and do not belong in any society, let alone a first world, highly educated society such as 21st century Australia.

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**The Greens   WESTERBERG Signe   SADLEIR**

**6. Private Schools:Do you oppose the continued state funding of religious and other non-government schools? OTHER**

Comment: I agree with the Greens policy of not increasing funding and maintaining it at previous levels. Public schools should be funded as a priority.

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**The Greens   WILLIAMSON Doug   WAMBERAL**

**20. Climate Change:South Australian has a renewable energy target of 50% by 2025, and the ACT has a target of 90% by 2020. Would you support a bill for a transparent target for renewable energy in New South Wales akin to targets in SA and ACT? OTHER**

Comment: 100% by 2030

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**END**