

# Progressive Atheists Inc

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*Proud Member of Atheist Alliance International  
Allied with Secular Coalition of Australia*

Victorian State South Gippsland By-Election Candidate Survey

## Candidate Responses

March 2015

Questions \ Candidates	Liberal Democrats			Greens	National	Liberal		
	Gerard J DONOHUE	Jim McDONALD	Deb MEESTER	Andrea MILLSOM	Danny O'BRIEN	Viv PEPPER	Scott ROSSETTI	Warren SANDERS
1. Special Religions Instruction: do you oppose the continuing of Special Religious Instruction in publicly funded Primary Schools?	~	~	~	NO	~	NO	~	YES
2. School Chaplaincy Program: do you oppose the Victorian state government continuing to fund the School Chaplaincy Program using Federal Funds?	~	~	~	NO	~	NO	~	YES
3. Abortion Laws: are you in favour of maintaining the law that ensures that a doctor with a consciousness objection to abortion nevertheless must refer the women to a doctor without such an objection?	~	~	~	YES	~	YES	~	OTHER
4. 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?	~	~	~	YES	~	YES	~	YES
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?	~	~	~	YES	~	YES	~	OTHER
6. Mandatory Reporting Laws: are you in favour of removing religious exemptions to the mandatory reporting of child abuse?	~	~	~	YES	~	YES	~	YES
7. Anti-discrimination Legislation: are you opposed to religious bodies being allowed to discriminate in employment even when the religious observance or policies are not a genuine occupational qualification for that job?	~	~	~	NO	~	YES	~	YES

8. Marriage Equality: do you support marriage equality for same sex couples?	~	~	~	YES	~	YES	~	YES
9. Domestic Violence: are you in favour of implementing the key asks of the No More Deaths - keep women and children safe from family violence Campaign? <a href="http://www.dvrcv.org.au/sites/thelookout.sites.go1.com.au/files/NoMoreDeaths_Campaign_Key_Ask.pdf">http://www.dvrcv.org.au/sites/thelookout.sites.go1.com.au/files/NoMoreDeaths_Campaign_Key_Ask.pdf</a>	~	~	~	YES	~	OTHER	~	OTHER
10. 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 Victoria akin to targets in SA and ACT?	~	~	~	YES	~	YES	~	YES

## Candidate Comments:

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**Viv PEPPER:** I am not across the No more deaths campaign, but will make sure I read it

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**Warren SANDERS** 3. The right of women to control their own bodies should override everything else regardless that it's currently wholly conditional on the physical welfare of the woman. As long as the foetus is part of a woman's body, it should always be her right to choose whether or not to continue with a pregnancy. For example:- What if the woman was raped and didn't want the child, What if the woman reasonably believes she isn't in the physical or psychological or social circumstances" to be able to bring up a child. Whether potentially being normally healthy or not, because it affects many people not just the potential child's quality of life.

5. Well isn't this the same as making any employer responsible for any of their employees that commits a crime responsible and you sell up their property. No one would be an employer in that case. And for these people to be coming out about these offences well beyond 20 years 30 - 40 Years. If these events did take place and these people were so affected why has it taken them so long to come forward. (you can understand the time frame from childhood to adulthood). If it's a criminal crime then prosecution of the offender should be enough because if there is a financial compensation you will have almost every person & dog coming out of the wood work standing together with false claims if there is an easy dollar in it.

9. I believe a lot of these individual campaigns could be rolled into one. Sorry if the following isn't specific to your question, but Violence in any form is bad even bullying at school. We should just have the one program, one expense that tackles the larger problem that covers all these issues as a whole and that's intolerance and lack off acceptance of something different to ourselves or our beliefs or in a lot of cases when it comes to children it's their parent's belief that they have taken on themselves. We can't just address this at a school level, we have to address this in the homes and the communities. By uniting the majority by informing and showing the benefits of standing up for the minority for the betterment and diversity of the communities. That diversity is good, like the different range of foods, the different range of clothing, the different range of customs, the different types of thought, etc. The different things that we can experience and accept that our forebears couldn't and didn't experience. E.g. could one person be a bully or do something demeaning to another if the rest of the people in the area stood up as a united body against this action. Rather than be divided and cower as individuals and then to be preyed upon themselves at a later date. This education can be done in the form of subtle films as it has been in the past that has changed and modernised our beliefs, but defiantly not in a lecturing or useless add campaigns that governments have implemented or the threats of punishment. You have to show the advantages, what's in it for them for people to take something on and that this new paradigm is the new and current normal of acceptance.

If we don't stand up and take an interest for our own constitutional rights and outcomes as a united whole, in the democratic system that we have, at this opportunity. Then how can we complain down the track when we will have no say at all!

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