

Progressive Atheists Inc.

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Proud Member of Atheist Alliance International

Member Group of Secular Coalition of Australia



Victorian State By Election Candidate Survey

Election Date: Saturday, 31 October 2015

South-West Coast By-Election

Answers & Comments of Candidate

Michael Neoh

1. **Special Religious Instruction:** do you approve of the minister for education removing SRI from class time in Victoria?

OTHER

Comment: Shouldn't replace core curriculum time.

2. **Special Religious Instruction:** do you support the removal of SRI from the education and training reform act?

YES

3. **Comparative Religious Education:** are you in favour of F-10 school curriculum in Victorian schools to teach about the 5 major world religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism) and in addition secular humanism / rationalism?

NO

4. **School Chaplain Alternatives:** are you in favour of the Victorian government providing funding for secular welfare workers to those schools who choose not to have a religious chaplain?

YES

5. **Inclusive Schools:** are you in favour of Safe Schools Coalition Australia whose services aim to improve safety and inclusivity for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students, their families and teachers, while taking a zero-tolerance approach to homophobia and transphobia in the school community?

OTHER

Comment: I support inclusive communities in general

6. **Respectful Relationships:** are you in favour of the new Victorian schools curriculum resource “Building Respectful Relationships – Stepping Out Against Gender-Based Violence” a new teaching resource for Victorian secondary students to learn how to build healthy relationships, understand global cultures, ethics and traditions, and to prevent family violence?

OTHER

Comment: I support promoting inclusive communities in general

7. **Anti-discrimination Legislation:** should religious bodies be allowed to discriminate in employment even when religious faith is not a genuine occupational qualification for that job?

OTHER

Comment: Parents have the right to choose if they wish to send their children to private schools that have a religious focus

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

YES

9. **Abortion Laws:** are you in favour of maintaining the current laws on abortion in Victoria?

YES

10. **End of Life Choices:** 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: Generally in favour, but would want very strict legislative control

11. Medicinal Cannabis: are you in favour of developing a Victorian industry to produce cannabis for medicinal purposes?

OTHER

Comment: Need more research on its effectiveness and legislative controls

12. 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?

OTHER

Comment: I want to see government auction their energy purchase to allow job creating renewable projects in Wind and Energy in the South West

13. Victorian Duties and Taxes: are you in favour of removing religious exemptions in the Duties Act 2000?

OTHER

Comment: I would like to see a strict control on reporting where funds go if duty and tax exemptions are maintained - just like many other charitable organisations

14. Victorian Duties and Taxes: are you in favour of removing religious exemptions in the Debts Tax Act 1990?

OTHER

Comment: Once again I would like to see strict controls on reporting and if there are exemptions it should be on the charitable activities

15. Victorian Duties and Taxes: are you in favour of removing religious exemptions in the Payroll Tax Act 1971?

OTHER

Comment: Once again I would like to see strict controls on reporting and if there are exemptions it should be on the charitable activities

16. Victorian Duties and Taxes: are you in favour of removing religious exemptions in the Land Tax Act 1958?

OTHER

Comment: Once again I would like to see strict controls on reporting and if there are exemptions it should be on the charitable activities

17. Prayer in the Victorian Parliament: are you in favour of the Lord's prayer being replaced with silent reflection (as in the ACT parliament) at the commencement of each sitting day?

OTHER

Comment: Think the silent reflection is a good idea - accommodates all

18. Prayer in the Victorian Parliament: are you in favour of sanctioned affirmations from religious and nonreligious worldviews, in addition to the Lord's prayer, to be said on a rotational basis at the commencement of each sitting day?

OTHER

Comment: Maybe difficult to differentiate on what is and what isn't allowed and who represents which organisation.

END