# **Progressive Atheists Inc.**

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# Victorian State By Election Candidate Survey

Election Date: Saturday, 31 October 2015

<u>South-West Coast By-Election</u> Answers & Comments of Candidate Thomas Campbell

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

# YES

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

# YES

Comment: It really is the old chestnut that schools should be Free, Secular and Compulsory

**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?

#### YES

Comment: It is time that funding for religious organisations to deliver SRI in government schools was stopped and instead general, comparative, religious and ethics education be offered and delivered by qualified teachers

**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?

# YES

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?

# YES

**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?

#### NO

**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?

YES

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

#### YES

**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?

# YES

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

#### YES

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

#### YES

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

#### YES

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

#### YES

**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?

#### (no answer provided)

**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 to be said on a rotational basis at the commencement of each sitting day?

#### (no answer provided)

END