

100% Independent

DECEMBER 2021

THE CLARK INDEPENDENT

ANDREW WILKIE - YOUR INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MP



Political corruption



The solution is staring us in the face

As the 46th Federal Parliament approaches the next election, most likely to be held in March or May next year, many people are feeling pretty unhappy with the state of politics. Indeed things are so bad right now that many in the community hold politicians, politics and political parties in contempt. But this can be fixed, and the solution is staring us in the face.

First and foremost Australia needs a federal integrity agency, and it beggars belief that we don't have one already. Though more likely that's the point, that politics and governance at the federal level have become so compromised that the last thing the Federal Government wants is an effective integrity agency; one implementing the broadest definition of corruption, that can take referrals from anyone, hold public hearings, make findings of guilt and go after politicians and their staff.

No wonder the community keeps asking "what have they got to hide?" when there's the constant revelations of grant programs being rorted, dodgy land deals and who knows what else. And "what else?" is a very good question because the scandals making the news are probably the tip of an iceberg, an iceberg that will only ever be scrutinised when we have an integrity body with teeth, entirely unlike the half-baked agency the Federal Government says it will deliver.

Five key changes that Andrew continues to fight for in Canberra

- ✓ The establishment of an effective federal integrity agency to investigate dodgy political behaviour
- ✓ Improved whistleblower legal protection for those who shine a light on misconduct
- ✓ Media freedom laws to ensure the community knows what's really going on
- ✓ Political donation reform to end the corrupting link between big money and political decisions
- ✓ The creation of truth in political advertising laws

Climate change

Fair enough there was so much attention on the international climate change summit in Glasgow. But frankly the obsession with net-zero emissions by 2050 is a deliberate and worrying distraction from what's really needed, because everyone following the science knows that we simply don't have that long.

The planet has already warmed dangerously and is on track for much, much worse way before 2050. The Federal Government and Opposition should commit to net-zero carbon as fast as possible, ie by 2035 or sooner. And they should also be laying out the detailed roadmap to get there, including rapidly phasing out coal, gas and oil, and fast-tracking to 100 per-cent renewables.

Federal funding update

The **Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre** will be upgraded with a \$3.4m Federal Government grant. Hobart City Council secured the funding from the Building Better Regions Fund for a warm-water therapy pool and better amenities for people with high-needs. This is a great step forward for the upgrade of the Aquatic Centre and will help thousands of people improve their health and wellbeing. Andrew is proud to have been one of the voices pressing the Government for the funding.

There’s a shortage of therapy pools in southern Tasmania and the DKHAC upgrade will go some way to plug the gap. The situation has been made worse by OneCare’s decision to close and eventually remove the pool at Barossa Park Lodge, and the fact that the pool in the KGV Sport & Community Centre is unaffordable for many people. The community can be confident though that Andrew is always on the lookout for ways to help and would take any worthwhile funding request that might arise straight to the Federal Government.



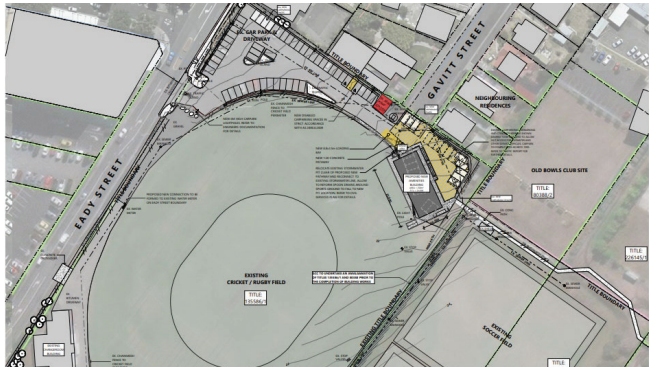
KGV sports precinct



Site of the future Chigwell Soccer Hub



The Doone Kennedy Aquatic Centre in Hobart



The Eady Street Sports Ground development will create new club houses and improved car parking

Good news is that work is finally underway on the new facilities at the **Eady Street Sports Ground in Glenorchy** where a \$1m Federal Government grant is providing a new home for both the Wellington Cricket Club and the Glenorchy Rugby Union Football Club.

Andrew shares the community’s deep dismay though with the absurdly slow pace of some of the other projects for which he has secured Federal Government funding. The \$12.8m contract between Glenorchy City Council and the Federal Government for the Chigwell Soccer Hub and additional work at KGV, and the \$6m contract between the YMCA and the Federal Government for the rebuild of their Glenorchy facility, are both yet to be finalised. That these important community projects are taking so long beggars belief, especially when building costs are skyrocketing and every day lost by Glenorchy City Council and the YMCA will result in less ever being built.

GST carve-up

Tasmania receives billions of dollars of GST every year to pay for schools, hospitals, roads and other vital needs. In fact GST is the state’s largest revenue source, making up 40 per cent of the State Budget. So it’s alarming that Tasmania is facing a big GST cut due to changes legislated ahead of the last federal election when Liberal and Labor were desperate to win and hold seats in Western Australia. Andrew was the only dissenting voice in the House of Representatives at the time and will continue to argue for a fairer deal for Tasmania.



Get in Andrew Wilkie’s ear

Each year Andrew runs a postcard campaign inviting feedback from the community and this year the response was excellent. The 400 or so people who put pen to paper to answer the question ‘what’s on your mind?’ confirmed that the electorate of Clark is engaged, diverse and community-minded. Andrew is careful to use this feedback to inform him as he goes about his work representing and helping the community.



The range of issues raised was very broad and included topics like health and aged care, government pensions and payments, self-funded retirement income, the environment and asylum seekers.

Unsurprisingly traffic congestion in Hobart is a hot topic. For instance people wrote in to oppose the State Government’s costly proposal to build a fifth lane on the Southern Outlet, which would just funnel more traffic into the city bottleneck. Andrew agrees and adds, while acknowledging that many people rely on cars and that we need better roads and EV charging infrastructure, we also desperately need light rail and more ferries, buses and park-and-ride arrangements. Much improved facilities for cyclists and pedestrians are also desperately needed.

The housing crisis is also on many people’s minds. Andrew remains strongly committed to pressing for positive solutions including more social housing, improved grants and low-interest loans for first-home buyers, and ensuring new Airbnb accommodation conforms with the original model of locals renting out spare rooms and granny flats. A holistic solution would also include more crisis and supported accommodation, increased Commonwealth Rent Assistance and tax reform.

Tassie Mums

Andrew was delighted to visit Tassie Mums, a wonderful group of 65 volunteers providing essential baby and children’s items to 60 social service organisations across Tasmania working with vulnerable and at-risk children. Last year alone they supported some 600 children with clothing bundles, nappies, toy bundles, toiletry packs and bigger items like prams, car seats, cots and bassinets.

But Tassie Mums can’t do it alone and Andrew encourages the community to donate clean, good-quality baby and children’s items. Cash donations are also very much appreciated to help cover their modest running costs, as well as to buy items like nappies and wipes.

Andrew is also putting a call-out to anyone who has a space they could donate or lease at a minimal rate. Currently Tassie Mums is spread out across three Hobart locations and the inexpensive lease on their main site is uncertain. What’s needed instead is a single affordable facility, like a small warehouse or office with good storage and access.

Tassie Mums can be contacted at 0408 327 944, tassiemums@gmail.com or through tassiemums.org



Andrew with Clair Harris, founder of Tassie Mums

Win for whistleblowers

Whistleblowers enjoyed a big win in Federal Parliament recently when Andrew successfully argued that the Parliament should intervene in a NSW court case between the leading Australian poker machine industry body, Clubs NSW, and a former employee who revealed serious money-laundering concerns to Andrew.

That the Federal Parliament will act to enforce and protect parliamentary privilege is a significant win for whistleblowers and an important precedent for all Australian parliaments, and indeed Commonwealth parliaments around the world. To realise the importance of this decision you only need look to the Royal Commissions and inquiries into Crown and Star casinos in Victoria, NSW and WA where whistleblowers, protected by Andrew’s parliamentary privilege when he brought to the Parliament their compelling evidence of criminality, helped spark these probes.

Community notice board

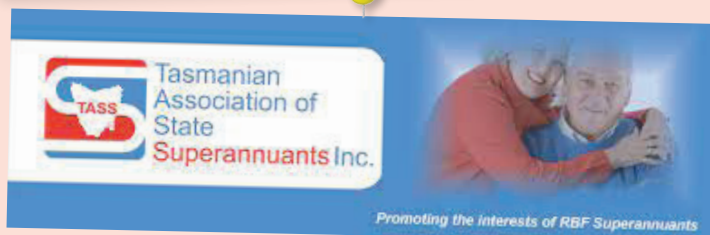
Have your say

Do you have a view on how Australia treats asylum seekers? Well now's your chance to tell the decision makers. The Joint Standing Committee on Migration is considering Andrew's Private Member's Bill to end mandatory and indefinite detention of asylum seekers and calling for public comment.

The *Ending Indefinite and Arbitrary Immigration Detention Bill 2021* establishes a legal framework that outlaws mandatory indefinite detention, provides alternatives to immigration detention, and prioritises non-citizens' immediate needs in adherence to international human rights laws.

Submissions close 28 January 2022

aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Migration/ImmigrationDetentionBill



State superannuants

The Tasmanian Association of State Superannuants (TASS) is a voluntary organisation that looks after and promotes the best interests of state superannuants. RBF Contributory Scheme members, life pensioners and their partners are all invited to become members.

www.tass.org.au or 0448 731 845

GPO Box 1650 Hobart 7001 or info@tass.org.au

@TASSTasmania on Facebook

Nervous? Try Rostrum

Rostrum is a great way to improve your confidence, public speaking and leadership skills. Coaches help people get ready for job interviews, work presentations, family celebrations and community meetings. Daniel (pictured) says he has become more confident and ready for challenges since joining Rostrum.



There are four clubs in Hobart and visitors are welcome.

www.rostrum.com.au or 0438 780 306
taspolicy@rostrum.com.au

Want to get in touch with Andrew?

- Drop into the office at 188 Collins Street Hobart or post a letter to GPO Box 32 Hobart 7001
- Phone 6234 5255 or 6234 5861
- Email andrew.wilkie.mp@aph.gov.au
- Ask for a meeting

www.andrewwilkie.org



Bushfire plan

Do you know what to do in a bushfire? The Tasmanian Fire Service has a guide to help you prepare and create a plan to survive the next bushfire. Don't risk it, get your Bushfire Safety Guide 2021 today.

fire.tas.gov.au or 1800 000 699

Creative volunteers wanted

The Story Island Project is a not-for-profit organisation that nurtures the creativity and writing skills of young Tasmanians and celebrates their diverse voices.



Enthusiastic volunteers support young people who create their own stories in Story Island's fun storytelling workshops, which are run in schools around greater Hobart. The organisation focuses on communities who are often overlooked and may be marginalised in some way.

Story Island is seeking new volunteers for its 2022 workshops.

storyislandproject.org or 0409 856 979

Grants

Andrew's website has a helpful new section for community organisations looking for financial grants. There's information on how to find a suitable grant and links to opportunities. Some grants are run through Andrew's office and these will be advertised there too.

Open now!

Local Sporting Champions Grant Round 3

Grants of up to \$700 for coaches, officials and competitors aged 12-18 participating in state, national or international championships. Applications can be submitted up to 1 month after the sporting event. Visit www.sportaus.gov.au/grants_and_funding/local_sporting_champions for an application form. Open until 31 December 2021.

andrewwilkie.org/about-grants or lizzie.drew@aph.gov.au or 6234 5255

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