

THE CLARK INDEPENDENT



AUGUST 2025

ANDREW WILKIE - YOUR INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MP

Governments still dodging housing fix

Housing continues to be one of the most common concerns raised with Andrew. Expensive housing and high interest rates, the shortage of rental properties, high rents and weak protections for tenants, and of course homelessness; they all continue to plague many members of the community.

Just recently, a homeless woman with disability came into Andrew's office seeking help because she was in poor health and had nowhere safe to sleep that night. Andrew's staff spent hours trying to help but ultimately every process and organisation failed her. All of the crisis accommodation and shelters were either full or not disability accessible. The responsible Minister's office could only suggest contacting Housing Connect, who had already told Andrew's staff they couldn't help. Finally, Andrew's staff were advised to take the woman to the Royal Hobart Hospital in the hope that her health concerns at least could be addressed.

Turning things around will take a holistic approach to the housing crisis, as well as vision and boldness. It would also require the Labor and Liberal parties, who shoulder responsibility for the housing crisis, to actually start working together instead of taking every opportunity to score political points and derail each other's proposals.

Everything should be on the table. Like tax reform to level the playing field for both home buyers and property investors, improved legal protections for tenants, much greater government investment in social housing,



incentives for developers to supply more affordable housing and, of course, greatly expanded availability of both crisis and supported accommodation. This should be paired with increased investment in homelessness support services to help people right now.

All of this is achievable and Andrew will continue to take every opportunity to push for reform. It's also affordable, seeing as Australia is the 12th richest country per capita and Australians are ranked second globally by median wealth per adult.



Making sense of governments & elections

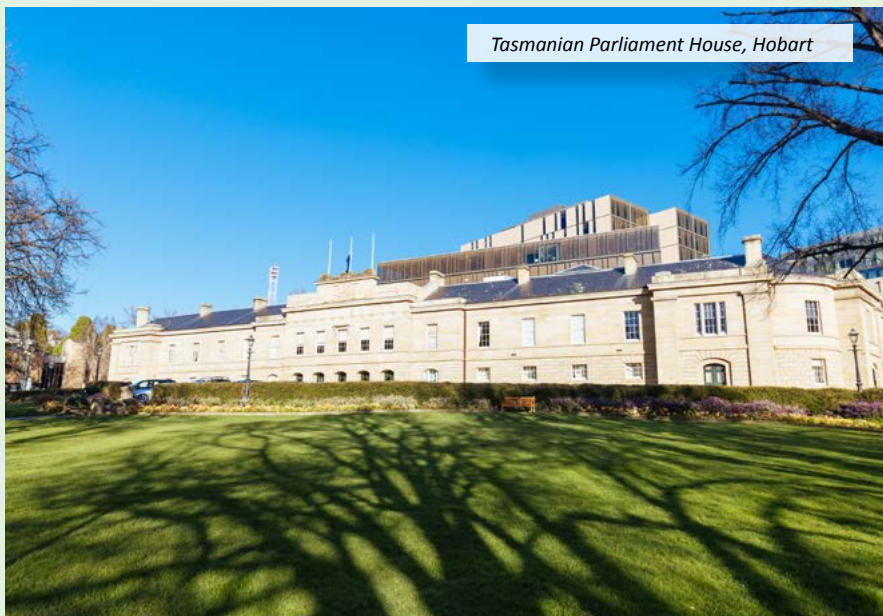
Australia has three levels of government: the Federal Government in Canberra, state and territory governments and local government. All hold elections.



Australian Parliament House, Canberra

First there's the Federal Government. It's responsible for national and transnational matters like the defence and security of Australia, as well as Australia's relationship and trade with other countries. It's also responsible for things like migration, telecommunications, aviation and corporations law, and even has its own police force called the Australian Federal Police. The Federal Government raises revenue, most obviously from income tax and corporation tax, as well as by collecting the goods and services tax (GST) which is transferred to state and territory governments. Elections for the House of Representatives, where Andrew works, are held approximately every three years, while Senate terms are six years, meaning half the Senate is up for re-election every three years.

Next there's the State Government. It's responsible for state-wide matters like public hospitals, public schools, highways and major arterials, police, ambulance, fire service, ports, railways and libraries. It receives much of its funding from the Federal Government and also raises its own revenue from things like land tax, payroll tax and mining royalties. Elections for the House of Assembly, where the State Government is formed, are normally held every four years. And elections for the Legislative Council are completed over six years, with just two or three divisions going to the polls each year.



Tasmanian Parliament House, Hobart



Hobart City Council Chamber
Credit: Rosie Hastie

And finally there's local government, which for residents of the Federal Division of Clark includes Hobart City Council, Glenorchy City Council and Kingborough Council. As the name suggests, local government deals with local matters like development applications, suburban roads and streetlights, parks and gardens, garbage collection and pet registration. It collects revenue from things like rates and parking fines. Elections are held every four years for the Lord Mayor in Hobart, and for the Mayors in Glenorchy and Kingborough. At the same time Aldermen/Councillors are elected in Hobart and Glenorchy, and Councillors in Kingborough.

AUKUS under the microscope

Andrew believes that the current United States' review of the tri-lateral security agreement between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, known as AUKUS, is a valuable opportunity to reset the controversial deal, and in particular for Australia to ditch nuclear submarines for conventional subs.

Australia's decision to replace the ageing Collins Class conventional submarine fleet with expensive nuclear submarines was never a good idea. Yes, nuclear boats go fast and deep and have remarkable endurance. But they are not as stealthy as many people believe, and are unsuited to South-East Asia's relatively shallow waters. In other words, nuclear submarines are not the best technology for Australia's needs.



AI generated image

Common sense dictates that Australia should instead go with a conventional technology that we can actually afford and sustain, is better matched to our region, and which can be obtained faster and in more effective numbers. AUKUS is of special interest to Andrew, who was a lieutenant colonel and intelligence analyst, and who has served on the Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee.

NDIS & Aged Care woes

Andrew is aware of the cuts to NDIS packages, and the unsatisfactory payments schedule for NDIS allied health practitioners, and is taking every opportunity to challenge the Government to do better. Andrew has also been quick to challenge the Government over the shortage of home support packages and the increasing costs for package services.

Pollie pensions myth-buster

The controversial federal parliamentary pension scheme was closed to new federal parliamentarians in 2004. Since then parliamentarians like Andrew, who was first elected in 2010, simply receive superannuation like all federal public servants. This is good, because the old polly pensions were outrageously generous and, quite rightly, deeply unpopular among the general population.

Live sheep ban to stay

The re-election of the Federal Labor Government earlier this year means that the phase-out of live sheep exports by sea, by 1 May 2028, will now go ahead. This is great news because the live animal export industry is systemically cruel, not in Australia's economic best interests and is deeply unpopular. Shamefully the Dutton Coalition Opposition had vowed to overturn the ban if it won the election.



Credit: Animals Australia

Indies continue to rise

There's no stopping the voter shift from political parties to independents. At the recent state election, independent Kristie Johnstone topped the poll in Clark, independent Peter George was number one in Franklin, and independent Craig Garland was bettered only by Jeremy Rockliff in Braddon. This follows the recent federal election where Andrew finished with 70.38 per cent of the vote, making Clark the safest non-government seat in Australia.

Community notice board

Country Women's Association

Good on State President Adriana Taylor for playing a key role in re-forming the Glenorchy Branch of the CWA. Glenorchy is home to a significant number of migrant and refugee women, and the branch will provide a welcoming place for them to come and meet other women and become part of the community. Interest is growing in the new branch and they welcome enquiries from women of all ages.

Feel free to contact the Secretary, Jane on **0401 134 999** or Adriana on **0419 550 051**

cwatasmania.com.au



26Ten

Tasmania has a statewide plan to help adults improve their reading, writing and maths skills. The plan aims for all Tasmanians to know about adult literacy and numeracy, be supported to improve their skills and help others, and communicate clearly.

Find out more by contacting the Reading Writing Hotline on **1300 655 506** or by contacting your local library.

26ten.tas.gov.au



26Ten

TasCAHRD

TasCAHRD is the Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases. They work with communities, health services, researchers and governments to reduce the rates of blood-borne viruses and STIs and their impact in Tasmania. TasCAHRD provides education, support and advocacy to improve health literacy and access to services, and to reduce stigma and discrimination. Their vision is a world where people live well and proud.

For more information call **6234 1242** or email mail@tascahrd.org.au

tascahrd.org.au



Tasmanian Council
on AIDS, Hepatitis
+ Related Diseases

Want to get in touch with Andrew?

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

www.andrewwilkie.org



Elder Abuse – it's just not right

Sunday 15 June was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The day is observed annually to provide an opportunity for the community to stand together against the abuse of older people. Elder abuse comes in many forms. It can be financial, emotional, psychological, physical, sexual or social. It can occur once or repeatedly, and vary from subtle through to extreme. Elder abuse is often carried out by someone known to the older person.

Want to find out more? Suspect someone elderly is the subject of abuse? Or are you are experiencing elder abuse? Call the Helpline on **1800 441 169**

elderabuse.tas.gov.au

Troublesmiths

Troublesmiths empower young Tasmanians with the skills they need to thrive in work and life. Through hands-on work experience, coaching and tailored training, they support young people, employers and the broader community. Their retail store is the heart of Troublesmith's social enterprise; a creative space where young people craft Tassie-made gifts and hampers while gaining real-world workplace skills.

Visit Troublesmiths at **20 Watchorn Street in Hobart.**

troublesmiths.com.au

TROUBLE SMITHS™

National Assistance Card

The National Assistance Card is a personalised card to assist people with disability and health conditions to communicate their areas of difficulty and any assistance they might need. It looks like a small identity card but is not an official identity card or legal document. When someone shows you their National Assistance Card, read it and ask the cardholder how you can help them. Remember to be friendly and respectful and use clear, plain language.

For more information call **1300 680 045** or email info@nationalassistancecard.com.au

nationalassistancecard.com.au



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