

A Comparison of Party 'Values'

Decisions about which political party to support or which person to vote for in an election for can be made on a number of grounds, including the following:

- **Personality** is one aspect of the political process which is increasingly influential. Strong and charismatic leadership is seen as a plus and parties try to ensure that they choose leaders who will attract the maximum number of votes and put forward candidates who appeal strongly to the electorate.
- **Policies** are, arguably, even more important. They determine the direction in which the government will move and debate about policies lies at the heart of the political process. It is not possible to vote intelligently without some understanding of the policies of the candidates or parties involved.
- **Performance** is, of course, also important, because even the best policies are useless unless they are actually implemented. Consequently, it is an important part of the political process to make a judgment about whether a person or a party does (or is likely to, if currently in opposition) effectively implement the necessary policies.
- **Principles** or values, however, are arguably, the most important aspect of all. They lie behind the behaviour of parties and their policies. They should not be neglected in any judgment about voting.

As well as comparing the values of the various parties among themselves, it is, of course, an important exercise to compare them with Christian values. It is at this point that the judgment of the individual comes into play as in a democratic system each person is able to make their own choice. It would not be appropriate at this point to do other than encourage Christians to consider these values (and ultimately, policies and people and parties) in the light of their understanding of Christian values.

Questions to ask as you consider these extracts.

- Do these represent Christian values in some way?
- Are these values going to enhance our world?
- Are there important values which are not addressed?

A note about the selection of parties: The selection of parties to be compared is, itself, a potentially political issue. The Federal Parliament (as at May 2004) has representatives from eight political parties (ALP, Liberal, Nationals, Greens, Country Liberal, Australian Democrats, Australian Progressive Alliance and Pauline Hanson's One Nation) and a number of independents. The following comparison does not include independents or parties with only a single representative but does include the Christian Democrats who presently do not have any but who have candidates in a number of states.

The parties to be compared thus includes the Australian Democrats (AD), the Australian Greens (Greens), the Australian Labor Party (ALP), the Christian Democratic Party (CDP), the Liberal Party of Australia (Lib) and the Nationals (Nat).

The material can be read by scrolling down or by clicking on any of these:

Material on the **EA Faith and Politics** website represents a variety of opinion and views expressed in any article are those of the author and not an EA 'position'. Resources are provided for reflection and discussion.

- [The Australian Democrats' Objectives](#)
- [The Australian Greens' Charter](#)
- [The Australian Labor Party's Enduring Values](#)
- [The Christian Democratic Party's Aims and Objectives](#)
- [The Liberal Party of Australia Beliefs](#)
- [The Nationals' Values](#)
- [Family First Party](#)

The Australian Democrats

The full text of the Australian Democrats' Party Objectives and other related material can be found at ww.democrats.org.au.

Party Objectives

- To be beholden to no group or groups in the community but to serve the best interest of all Australians.
- To accept the challenges of the predicament of humanity on the planet with its exponentially increasing population, disappearing finite resources and accelerating deterioration of the environment.
- To recognise the interdependence of all people and all nations, to co-operate fully with the United Nations, and to accept our obligation to the developing countries by co-operating with them in their social and economic development.
- To seek the transition to a sustainable economy, in equilibrium with world resources and eco-systems, with a minimum of dislocation by planning the necessary changes in good time, and by increasing public awareness of problems ahead.
- To be even-handed to employee and employer, and reconcile their real interests by encouraging industrial democracy and other appropriate forms of co-operation.
- To foster greater mutual understanding as well as greater equality in income per hour of work, between city and country dwellers.
- To stimulate the development of a multi-faceted national culture, with full opportunity for all ethnic groups to contribute.
- To further unite the people of Australia by co-operative, indicative national planning, taking into account social, economic and environmental objectives.
- To seek improvement in the quality of human relationships in all aspects of society and the economy, through honesty, tolerance, compassion and a sense of mutual obligation.
- To decentralise power, to oppose its concentration in the hands of sectional groups, and to ensure that the power of large groups or of bureaucracies is not allowed to override the interest of individuals or of smaller groups.
- To achieve and defend effective participatory democracy and open government by appropriate constitutional, parliamentary and government reforms.
- By supporting existing rural and provincial industries and in other ways, to stem, and finally reverse, the flow of population to the cities.
- In social and health services to emphasise prevention rather than cure.
- To foster community activities and the growth of community spirit, bringing government and health and social services closer to the people.

- To enable people to pursue their own way of life so long as they do not interfere with the rights of others.
- To provide throughout life an education for living as well as for earning a living.
- To ensure ready access to the media for public communication.
- To ensure that the basic needs of all people are securely met, and to distribute income, wealth, social services and opportunity more equitably without undermining either incentive or self-respect.
- To encourage individual initiative and enterprise and to recognise the need for self-fulfilment.
- Animals should be protected from cruelty and exploitation.
- To recognise the rights of all people to self-determination.
- To ensure the maintenance of biodiversity, to protect threatened species and to provide for better habitat protection.
- To seek the election to Parliament of members committed to the objectives of the Party.

The Australian Greens

The full text of the Australian Greens Charter and Constitution and other related material can be found at www.greens.org.au.

Basis of The Charter

We live at a crucial time in history. Never before have we had so many answers to the problems that have dogged our developing world.

Solutions now exist that could greatly decrease the poverty, hunger and ill health of our fellow humans and we now have technologies to reduce and repair much of the ecological damage on our planet wrought by our industrial and agricultural activities. Clean air, clean water and ecological sustainability are possible. Yet this is not being done.

World wide, conservative governments lack the political will to make the necessary adjustments that will bring an end to the conflict, pollution, poor health and social inequity that characterises our time. The Greens have evolved in this climate to show a new way forward.

A Green response to the ecological crisis proceeds on the basis of a respect for all life, human and non-human. We recognise the mutual interdependence between humanity and the rest of nature and we seek to move down an ecologically sustainable path. We seek to eradicate poverty, oppression and discrimination and to build a society that is underpinned by the values of participatory democracy, social justice, and respect for cultural and ecological diversity. We aim to transform the political, social and economic structures that oppress people and to develop a rich, participatory cultural life that enables the flourishing of a new democratic movement for progressive change.

We believe that contesting elections is a necessary step towards the building of an ecologically sustainable and socially just society, but that it is by no means the only step. We recognise and seek to facilitate grassroots movements and community initiatives that are working towards

ecological responsibility, social justice, affirmative action on behalf of groups who are discriminated against, Aboriginal land rights, peace, and Third World development.

We seek to avoid parochialism and to cultivate a global, ecological consciousness and long-range perspective in order to safeguard the interests of both existing and future generations and non-human species. We believe Australia should play an active role in building a more co-operative and ecologically sustainable world that is capable of addressing the glaring disparities in energy and resource consumption and quality of life between the rich and poor. We aim to extend recognition and assistance to progressive social movements in Australia and other countries and to international institutions that are working towards these ends.

Reflecting an awareness of the interrelatedness of all ecological, social and economic processes, the general principles of The Greens are:

Ecology

- to ensure that human activity respects the integrity of ecosystems and does not impair biodiversity and the ecological resilience of life-supporting systems;
- to encourage the development of a consciousness that respects the value of all life.

Democracy

- to increase opportunities for public participation in political, social and economic decision making;
- to break down inequalities of wealth and power which inhibit participatory democracy.

Social Justice

- to eradicate poverty by developing initiatives that address the causes as well as the symptoms of poverty;
- to provide affirmative action to eliminate discrimination based on gender, age, race, ethnicity, class, religion, disability, sexuality or membership of a minority group;
- to introduce measures that redress the imbalance between rich and poor.

Peace

- to adopt and promote nonviolent resolution of conflict;
- to develop an independent, non aligned foreign policy;
- to develop a self-reliant, defensive, non-nuclear defence policy;

An Ecologically Sustainable Economy

- to develop economic policies which will ensure greater resource and energy efficiency as well as development and use of environmentally sustainable technologies;
- to reduce dependence on non-renewable resources and ensure sustainable use of renewable resources;
- to adopt more comprehensive social, environmental and technology assessment practices;

- to facilitate socially and ecologically responsible investment.

Meaningful Work

- to encourage, develop and assist work that is safe, fairly paid, socially useful, personally fulfilling and not harmful to the environment;
- to encourage and facilitate more flexible work arrangements, on-going education.

Culture

- to respect and protect ethnic, religious and racial diversity;
- to recognise the cultural requirements of the original Australians;
- to assist in ensuring the achievements of Aboriginal land rights and self-determination.

Information

- to facilitate a free flow of information between citizens and all tiers of government;
- to ensure that Australians have the benefit of a locally responsible, diverse, democratically controlled, independent mass media.

Global Responsibility

To promote equity between nations and peoples by:

- facilitating fair trading relationships;
- providing for increased development assistance and concerted international action to abolish Third World debt;
- providing increased green technology transfer and skills to developing countries;
- opposing human rights abuses and political oppression;
- ensuring that Australia plays an active role in promoting a peace and ecological sustainability.

Long-range Future Focus

- to avoid action which might risk long-term or irreversible damage to the environment;
- to safeguard the planet's ecological resources on behalf of future generations.

Australian Labor Party

The full text of the Australian Labor Party's Platform and Constitution and other related material can be found at www.alp.org.au.

Enduring Labor Values

1. Our world is being remade, and Australia is being remade along with it, through explosive advances in ideas, technology and science at a pace we have never before experienced, and in ways we cannot avoid. Labor's approach to our changing world will continue to be an active and creative one. While a Labor Government will seek to

- embrace the beneficial changes of the knowledge revolution, it is central to Labor values that we ensure all of us have equal access to its opportunities and benefits.
2. In this era of globalisation, Labor's traditional values will remain a constant on which all Australians can rely. Labor believes the truest measure of a good society is the care it provides for those most in need and the opportunity it provides for every person to realise his or her full potential. Labor's commitment to a strong economy is therefore matched by its commitment to justice, fairness and equity for all.
 3. To ensure justice, and an equal share of opportunity for all, Labor believes in a strong role for national government – the one institution all Australians truly own and control through our right to vote. Narrowing the scope of government only diminishes our stake in the nation's future. Labor will use our great national institutions in the task of nation building. WE will not allow the benefits of change to be concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, or located only in privileged communities. The benefits must be shared by all Australians and all our regions.
 4. Central to ensuring fairness in an era of change will be to assist families to better balance the pressures of work, family and social obligations. Labor believes that the family is the fundamental group unit of society, and that its economic security is of paramount importance. Labor will work with all involved to help achieve suitable work arrangements, and access to social programs to help achieve this balance.
 5. Labor was born out of the trade union movement and its struggle for a secure, decent and dignified life for working people. This relationship must be more than merely historic; it must be a constructive partnership that takes the whole nation forward. The partnership between the two great wings of the labour movement has been essential to deal with the consequences of the industrial revolution, and must continue into the knowledge revolution of the twenty-first century. We pledge to ensure opportunity, security and progress for working people and their families.
 6. **Fairness.** Labor believes that all people are created equal in their entitlement to dignity and respect, and should have an equal chance to achieve their potential. For Labor, government has a critical role in ensuring fairness by:
 - Ensuring equal opportunity;
 - Removing unjustifiable discrimination; and achieving a more equitable distribution of wealth, income and status.
 7. **Compassion and Equality.** Labor is committed to protecting and supporting those who are disadvantaged, oppressed or simply struggling to cope. The Labor tradition has always been to reach out, embrace, protect and support those in need. The consequences of a society characterised by high levels of inequality include poverty, crime, drug abuse, greed, envy and insecurity. Accordingly, Labor believes that all Australian have an interest in the creation of a more compassionate and egalitarian nation.
 8. **Human Rights** . Labor is committed to a just and tolerant society which fully protects the rights and freedoms of all Australians. Labor supports the right set out in the Universal Declaration of fundamental political and civil rights of everyone to freedom of conscience, expression and association, and to due process of law. It also includes 'economic rights' such as, for example, access to tertiary education on the basis of merit, access to adequate health care and the right to rest and leisure including reasonable limitations on working hours and periodic holidays with pay. Labor supports the introduction into Australian domestic law of the rights recognised and protected in

- the international treaties, conventions and protocols to which Australia is a party. In introducing these rights, Labor will ensure that existing rights are also protected.
9. **Labour Rights** . Labor is committed to protecting and advancing the fundamental rights of working people to join trade unions, and to organise, collectively bargain and strike.
 10. **Responsibility** . Labor believes that rights must be accompanied by responsibilities to behave honestly, humanely and fairly. Those responsibilities must be exercised.:
 - By individuals, toward each other and the community which supports them;
 - By social and economic groups and organisations, toward each other and the wider community; and by governments, toward their own people, other governments and the wider international community.
 11. **Democracy**. Labor is committed to the essential democratic principle that every person should have the right to a say, directly or indirectly, in every decision that affects his or her life. That right includes:
 - Democratic participation in the choice of governments;
 - The opportunity for a meaningful voice in decision making in the workplace; and
 - The opportunity for a voice in planning, the environment, the delivery of public services and similar matters.
 12. **Community** . Labor believes that the best chance for the future, for Australia and all Australians, lies in our working together for the common good.
 - Within Australia, Labor is committed to a society in which every person is able to actively and productively participate in the life of the community, and the whole community responds sensitively to individual needs.
 - Labor is committed to a community that embraces cultural diversity and reconciliation, based on mutual respect and acceptance. Genuine reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander people is crucial to our capacity to face the world as a united, peaceful and just nation.
 - Within the international community, Labor strongly believes that every country's national interests, including our own, are best protected and advanced by cooperation rather than confrontation and conflict.
 - Labor is committed to a strong role played by community organisations in both serving the community generally and in building a sense of community.
 - The work of these organisations is an essential part of combating alienation for vulnerable Australians.

The Christian Democratic Party

The full text of the Christian Democratic Party's National Charter and other related material can be found at www.cdp.org.au.

National Charter

In a general sense the purpose for which the organisation exists has not been changed, but continues to be:

- to advance the glory of God through the institution of Parliament and through all aspects of Federal and State and Local Government, to advance Australia as “A Christian Commonwealth” as it was originally described in 1901 when the “Commonwealth of Australia” was formed;
- to promote the true welfare of the people of Australia through all legislation being brought into conformity with the revealed will of God in the Holy Bible with a special emphasis on the MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION (2 Cor 5:18);
- to support & promote recognition of our Christian heritage by uplifting the Judeo/Christian ethic, with pro-family, pro-child, pro-moral, pro-life, and pro-Australian policies.
- To endorse, nominate and support the election of Christian Candidates into Local, State and Federal Government; especially in the Upper Houses of Parliament, and in the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory and the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory; and
- To uphold our Christian Constitutional Monarchy and Christian Westminster System of Government through the policies of CDP as a Christian Democratic Political Movement, respecting the sovereignty of Australia.

In accordance with Jeremiah 51:27 we seek to “Set up a standard in the Land, blow the trumpet among the nations”, and to fulfil our Lord’s command in the Gospel of Matthew 5:13-19 “Let your light shine”. C.f. Isaiah 62:6-10 Romans 13, Ephesians 5.

STATEMENT OF BELIEF

- **God:** We believe there is one creator God, eternal manifested as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe in the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- **The Bible :** We believe the Holy Bible to be the inspired, inerrant, written Word of God and the final authority above all man’s laws and government.
- **Civil Government:** We believe civil government to be under the authority of God (Romans 13:4)
- **Three God-Ordained Institutions:** we believe that God has ordained three Institutions – 1. the family; 2. the church; 3. the civil government; each with their own special responsibilities, duties and authority.

1. The family : We believe that the family, consisting of those individuals related by blood or marriage, is the foundational social unit of the nation. The family has primary responsibility for the education and property of its unique sphere of authority and it must preserve and promote optimum conditions in which the integrity of the family unit can be maintained.

(a) Marriage : We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ himself taught that in the beginning God created mankind – male and female, and meant husband and wife to live together honourably in a lasting, loving, lifelong, faithful relationship. Marriage is a sacred relationship which God ordained for mankind so that the human race might be continued through the procreation of children, to be brought up in fear and nurture of the Lord; and for the mutual help, comfort and companionship both in prosperity and adversity.

(b) Right to Life: We believe that God the author of life and that human life originate at conception. Abortion and euthanasia must be opposed under all circumstances as the shedding of innocent blood.

(c) God's gift of Sex: We believe that God has established laws of sexual morality for the well-being of society prohibiting pornography, adultery, incest, homosexuality, and other sexual aberrations which debase man, as well as defile and pollute our nation.

(d) Parents' Rights: we believe that parents (not the civil government) have the primary responsibility before God for child rearing and the education of their children according to the dictates of their conscience with the sole ability to choose what kind of education they want for their children.

2. The Church : We believe that the Church is a God ordained body of believers charged to proclaim God's truth and to set an example both inwardly and outwardly of Godly living before the world. It has not authority to use physical coercion, but only to challenge man's conscience to do what is right.

3. Government: Civil government is a God-ordained institution with authority to deal only with the outward deeds of people. Both Church and State are unique in their responsibilities before God: neither may seek to usurp the other's role, but neither can be free of the other's influence. We believe the purpose of civil government is to ensure freedom and justice for a nation's citizens by establishing and upholding law and order in accordance with Biblical principles.

(a) Biblical Ethics: We believe that decision-making processes by civil government must not contravene Biblical ethics concerning the family, marriage, morality, etc.

(b) Law and Order: We believe that it is every citizen's duty to submit to the God-ordained governing authority. The primary responsibility of civil government is to protect the lives of a nation's citizens and to ensure that those who violate law and order receive just punishment. Crime should never carry with it a reward, and therefore the Biblical principle of restitution and compensation to victims of crime should be enforced.

(c) Taxation: We believe that there should be 'no taxation without representation' at every level of government. We believe that the civil government exists to serve the people, not the people with the civil government, and that people are therefore obliged to sustain civil government through just taxation. We believe that as Jesus Christ taught "*Render to Caesar what is due to Caesar and render to God what is due to God*". (Matthew 22:21)

(d) Freedom: We believe that the national civil government should build up and maintain an adequate military preparedness to protect the nation's unique identity and sovereignty from external attack or internal subversion.

(e) Free Enterprise: We believe that the Biblical principles concerning economics should be consistently upheld and respected by civil government, including honest weights and measures and avoidance to currency debasement. WE further uphold the principle of responsible free enterprise, meaning maximum freedom to develop one's talents matched with responsibility before God in dealing with our fellow man.

The Liberal Party of Australia

The full text of the Liberal Party of Australia's Federal Platform and other related material can be found at www.liberal.org.au.

We believe...

- In Australia, its people and its future.
- In the innate worth of the individual, in the right to be independent, to own property and to achieve, and in the need to encourage initiative and personal responsibility
- In the basic freedoms of thought, worship, speech, association and choice.
- In equality of opportunity, with all Australians having the opportunity to reach their full potential in a tolerant national community.
- In a just and humane society, where those who cannot provide for themselves can live in dignity.
- In the family as the primary institution for fostering the values of which a cohesive society is built.
- In the creation of wealth and in competitive enterprise, consumer choice and reward for effort as the proven means of providing prosperity for all Australians.
- In the principle of mutual obligation, whereby those in receipt of government benefits make some form of contribution to the community in return, where this is appropriate.
- In the importance of voluntary effort and voluntary organisations.
- In parliamentary democracy as the best system for the expression and fulfilment of the aspirations of a free people.
- In the separation and distribution of powers as the best protection for the democratic process.
- In a federal system of government and the decentralisation of power, with local decisions being made at the local level.
- In a constitutional head of state as a symbol of unity and continuity.
- In Government being sufficiently responsive so that it can meet its proper obligations to its citizens.
- In Government keeping to its core business and not competing with the private sector.
- In the rule of law and justice, giving all citizens equal rights under the law, responsibilities to maintain it, and the freedom to change it.
- In Australia playing a constructive role in the pursuit and maintenance of international peace in alliance with other free nations and in assisting less advantaged peoples.
- In Liberalism, with its emphasis on the individual and enterprise, as the political philosophy best able to meet the demands and challenges of the 21st century.

The Nationals

The full text of the Nationals' Values and Policies and other related material can be found at www.nationals.org.au

Our Values

Our organisation is based on three principles: security, individual achievement and strong representation for local communities.

- Security: We believe in security for the nation, local communities and families.
- Individual achievement: we believe in private enterprise, a fair go and a balanced role for Government.
- Strong Representation: we believe in Members of Parliament who are strong local advocates, champions for their regions and come together to act as a team.

The Nationals is a private enterprise organisation. It provides a vital balance, ensuring the interests of people living beyond the capital cities have a voice in Parliament. Without the Nationals, government policy would be determined by a substantial majority of city-based parliamentarians.

It upholds traditional values and fights for a better quality of service, opportunity and life for all people, from remote inland communities to major regional and coastal centres.

The Party has a major influence on policy and is responsible for many landmark initiatives for Australia, ranging from hospital and medical benefits schemes, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Australian Institute of Sport and the abolition of Federal death and gift duties, to the regional Australia Summit, the Natural Heritage Trust, the Roads to Recovery Program, the Agriculture – Advancing Australia package, the Supermarket to Asia and major increases in funding for country and regional health, education and communications.

Family First Party

The full text of the philosophy of the Family First Party can be found at www.familyfirst.org.au

The Family

Family First believes the family is the most important social unit in society.

Family First believes that families are the foundation stone of society. We will work towards the ideal that all Australian families have the opportunity to participate fully in society. We will therefore promote both the rights and responsibilities of families, as well as the rights and responsibilities of government towards families.

While the focus of Family First is to strengthen families as a fundamental building block of society, it will work to ensure not only that the rights of children and parents are always protected, but also advanced where necessary to ensure the best interests of children in particular. Family First will champion the cause of the Australian family with the aim of ensuring that public policy encourages the development of strong effective families.

Health

Family First believes the health of the nation starts with the health of each family.

Health is fundamental to a person's total well-being. Family First recognises that health means more than mere absence of disease and encompasses a state of wellbeing that is physical, psychological and social. Accordingly, whilst Family First will promote and support measures to

improve the accessibility and quality of healthcare for all Australians, it will also seek to promote health in its broadest sense across the range of sectors that can impact health outcomes.

Family First agrees with the fundamental conditions and resources for health as outlined in the Ottawa Charter.

Family First believes that good health begins in the community and in each family, recognising that health is strongly affected by early development. Family First believes every person is entitled to just and equitable access to quality health services and is committed to providing opportunities for all families, particularly underprivileged, isolated and aged persons, and those in remote and rural centres to receive appropriate medical care.

Family First sees the supportive and robust social unit of the family as the crux of better wellbeing for all Australians.

Family First is committed to promoting the ideal that the duty of health carers is to promote health, relieve suffering and safeguard life. Family First is committed to supporting palliative care.

Housing

Family First recognises that housing should be affordable and accessible to all Australians.

Family First recognises that housing stability and security are crucial to healthy and stable family life and ultimately for the optimal development and education of children. Family First also recognises that home ownership provides a fundamental plank in Australia's Social Security Safety Net and an important aspect of sound retirement planning.

Education

Family First sees education as the cornerstone to developing and equipping young Australians to assure theirs and the nation's future.

Family First believes that education should provide a young person with a learning environment that fosters the holistic development of children and young people and builds strong foundations for adult life. Family First believes an environment that encourages pursuit of excellence in the intellectual, social, emotional and physical spheres, along with sound understanding of Australian heritage and culture will best fit our young people with life skills and competencies.

Economic Management for a Sustainable Society

Family First believes that social justice is fundamental to a sustainable society and that sound economic management is an important component of our nation's strategies for achieving this.

Family First will promote and support responsible economic management to build a strong economy providing a good standard of living for all members of society and sufficient

employment growth to ensure the health and sustainability of Australian families. Family First acknowledges that full employment, whilst needing to be balanced with other economic objectives, is nonetheless an essential condition for a strong economy, for healthy and effective families and for a just society. Accordingly Family First will support sound economic policies aimed at fostering sustainable employment growth together with the protection and promotion of working conditions that respect the dignity of all participants in the workforce. Family First will also support economic policies that promote price stability together with external economic stability. Family First will also promote management measures that ameliorate the growing inequity in income and wealth distribution across Australian Society.

Family First will work with Unions and small business in particular to sustain legislative initiatives that balance economic objectives with the interests of the family. At the same time Family First will champion opportunities for all Australian families including those sectors who have historically been disadvantaged.

Family First recognises that Australia faces a growing demographic imbalance and that decisive action is needed to reverse the declining trends in the birth rate if our economic prosperity is to be preserved.

Family First acknowledges the immensely positive and enriching contributions migrants have made to the development of our nation. Family First recognises that well managed and compassionate intakes of new migrants and refugees, committed to our nation and constitution, will continue to have a positive impact on our society's growth and prosperity.

Environment & Resources

Ecologically sustainable development calls for environmental stewardship, which recognises that local needs are connected to global and national responsibilities.

Family First is committed to the environment as essential to ensuring the health and happiness of future generations of families.

Family First gives a high priority to the resolution of Australia's natural resource management issues. Family First believes in Australia being a signatory to international agreements that acknowledge the global nature of environmental problems.

Family First recognises environmental stewardship includes the small as well as significant decisions and that both lead to creating a long term sustainable society. Family First acknowledges that government partnership with industry, agriculture and science is crucial to addressing the serious environmental challenges of water resource management and declining soil quality and biodiversity across large parts of Australia.

Aged Care

Family First believes that older Australians have a wealth of knowledge and experience which deserves to be valued and respected as playing a vital role in the formation of new generations.

Family First will seek to promote the participation of the aged in the life of families, communities and society by:

- Encouraging programs that integrate the elderly into society such as voluntary organisations

Ensuring the provision of appropriate care that promote healthier ageing and improved quality at the end stages of life.