Australian Christian Values Checklist
2 July 2016
Federal Election

This summary of the positions of major parties on issues of concern to Christians is provided as a service to the Christian community. In the 2011 Census 61% of Australians identified themselves as Christian. On many welfare and social justice issues the party policies are very similar. Our aim is to deal with the moral and ethical issues that are rarely, if ever, discussed publically in an election campaign but which are important issues that affect the very foundation of our society. We deal with other issues on our website. The team that compiles the checklist make independent assessments and are not members of any political party. This checklist has been compiled after an exhaustive search of party websites, voting history and public statements. Space has not permitted the inclusion of other minor parties. Positions are often difficult to summarise in a format of this kind, and parties have not always made definitive statements. Therefore a '?' indicates in some instances a conscience vote, or a less than conclusive opinion on the party's position on some of the issues. Tick equals YES ✔ X equals NO ✘

Christian Values Checklist	CDP	DLP	Family First	Rise Up Australia	Australian Liberty Alliance	National	Liberal	Labor	Greens
1. Continue to open parliament each day with Christian prayer	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘
2. Protect marriage & the future of our children - reject 'homosexual marriage'	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔?	✘?	✘?	✘
3. Support a plebiscite on marriage	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘
4. Oppose 'Safe Schools Coalition' – teaching radical gender & sexual ideology	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔?	✘	✘
5. Keep liberty - allow religious bodies the freedom to choose their employees	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘
6. Protect free speech - oppose vilification laws for sexuality & gender identity	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔?	✘	✘
7. Restore free speech - amend S18C to remove 'offend and insult'	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔?	✘?	✘	✘
8. Support traditional family values and teach our Christian heritage in schools	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔?	✔?	✔?	✘	✘
9. Support equitable funding for Christian and Private schools	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔?	✘
10. Continued funding of school chaplaincy program to support our children	✔	✔	✔	✔	?	✔?	✔?	✘?	✘
11. Help children - support presumption of equal parenting after divorce	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔?	✔?	✔?	✘?	✘
12. Children need Mum & Dad - no overseas adoption by homosexual couples	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔?	✔?	✘?	✘
13. Protect vulnerable people - euthanasia to remain illegal	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔?	✔?	✘?	✘
14. Life is precious - oppose overseas aid for abortion	✔	✔	✔	✔	?	✔?	✘?	✘	✘
15. Oppose Medicare funding for gender selected abortion	✔	✔	✔	✔	?	✔?	✘?	✘?	✘
16. Increased funding for drug harm prevention & abstinence based programs	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔?	✔?	✔?	✘	✘
17. Extend States ban on X-rated pornography to ACT & NT	✔	✔	✔	✔	?	?	✘?	✘	✘
18. Protect children – default 'clean feed' internet by ISPs to filter out porn	✔	✔	✔	✔	?	✘	✘	✘	✘
19. Stop the deaths of refugees at sea - support legitimate orderly immigration	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔?	✘
20. Humanitarian refugees – give priority for persecuted Christian minorities	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔?	✔?	✘	✘
21. Support greater care and stewardship of God's environment	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

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Christian Values Checklist - BRIEF Supporting Statements

Our responses are taken from Party platforms, public statements, media reports, voting records, etc. For more information on Party Policies please refer to Party websites or the Checklist. The ACVCL focuses on clear Biblical moral and ethical issues. Naturally, we should apply our Christianity to every aspect of life and carefully analyse all party policies as well as the personal values of each candidate.

Please copy the Supporting Statements on the BACK of the *Christian Values Checklist*.

The Checklist questions

1. Continue to open parliament each day with Christian prayer

All parties on the CVCL except the *Greens* support the opening of parliament with Christian prayers.

2. Protect marriage & the future of our children - reject 'homosexual marriage'

Australian Christians, CDP, DLP, Family First and *RUAP* all oppose same-sex 'marriage'. *ALA* supports the natural family and says homosexual partnerships are not the same as marriage. *Labor* policy supports same-sex 'marriage', as do the *Greens*. If elected, *Labor* will introduce a Bill to legalise homosexual 'marriage' within 100 days. In 2015, the Coalition party room voted for a plebiscite to ask the people what they think.

3. Support a plebiscite on marriage

The Coalition will hold a plebiscite to ask the people their view –*Labor* and *Greens* don't support a plebiscite but, instead, will legislate for homosexual 'marriage'.

4. Oppose 'Safe Schools Coalition' – teaching radical gender and sexuality ideology

The Coalition has placed restrictions on the resources used and limited the program to secondary schools. *Labor* and *Greens* fully support the *Safe Schools Coalition* – including the 'resources' and more funding. All other parties on the *CVCL* oppose the *Safe Schools Coalition*.

5. Keep liberty - allow religious bodies the freedom to choose their employees

The *Greens* are calling for the REMOVAL of all religious exemptions in federal anti-discrimination laws. This includes in employment. *Labor* says they will 'review' discrimination laws and examine exemptions – they have already removed them for aged care (Platform, S 196, S 28).

6. Protect free speech - oppose vilification laws for sexuality and gender identity

The *Greens* fully support such laws. *Labor* states they will "act against all forms of discrimination, vilification or harassment and harmonise anti-discrimination laws and procedures." Others oppose vilification laws.

7. Restore free speech - amend S 18C to remove 'offend and insult'

Labor and the *Greens* oppose removing 'offend and insult'. The Coalition had committed to remove S18C from the *Racial Discrimination Act*, but changed their policy under Malcolm Turnbull. The other parties on the CVCL all support the removal of the words 'offend or insult' from S 18C.

8. Support traditional family values and teach our Christian heritage in schools

The Coalition supports teaching of Christian heritage and has opposed the overt sexuality taught by the *Safe Schools Coalition*. *Labor* and the *Greens* do not favour the teaching of family values or Christian heritage.

9. Support equitable funding for Christian and Private schools

The *Greens* promote public education above private education. All other parties recognise that private education has a place in the education system.

10. Continued funding of school chaplaincy program to help our children

The Coalition has funded chaplains in schools – it was introduced by the Howard government. The program and funding for chaplains will be reviewed in 2017. When *Labor* was in power they changed the scheme to include secular welfare workers.

11. Help children - support presumption of equal parenting after divorce

The principle of 'shared parenting' was implemented by the Coalition and supported by *Family First,* but was wound back under *Labor*. *Australian Christians* propose mediation. The *DLP* supports *"the immediate overhaul of the Family Court system to promote fairer outcomes for all parties."*

12. Protect vulnerable people - euthanasia to remain illegal

Euthanasia is a conscience issue for the Coalition and *Labor. Australian Christians, DLP, Family First, CDP, RUAP* and *ALA* all have specific policies opposing euthanasia. The *Greens* have campaigned to legalise.

13. Life is precious - oppose overseas aid for abortion

Australian Christians, CDP, DLP, Family First and *RUAP* oppose abortion. Coalition and *Labor* have a conscience vote for MPs – *Labor's* policy supports abortion (Platform, S 95). *ALA* - Conscience vote for MPs - in-principle "do not support abortion after the first trimester except in exceptional circumstances".

Prior to 2007, the Coalition banned the use of overseas aid to fund abortions. This was overturned by *Labor* under Kevin Rudd.

14. Oppose Medicare funding for gender selected abortion

In 2013, Senator John Madigan (then *DLP*) proposed a Bill to ban abortions done for reasons of 'gender' but this was not debated or voted on. The Coalition and *Labor* didn't support the *DLP* Bill.

15. Protect children - no overseas adoption by homosexual couples

The federal government sets guidelines for overseas adoptions. The Coalition opposes this. *Australian Christians, CDP, DLP, Family First* and *RUAP* all oppose same-sex parenting. *ALA* states, *"The right of children to grow up in a natural family must remain protected"*. *Labor* and the *Greens* support it.

16. Increased funding for drug harm prevention & abstinence based programs

The Coalition supports abstinence-based rehabilitation programs. The *Greens* support 'harm reduction' - includes injecting rooms.

17. Extend States ban on X-rated pornography to ACT & NT

The Coalition and *Labor* haven't acted to extend the ban. The *Greens* oppose the move.

18. Protect children – default 'clean feed' internet by ISPs to filter out porn

Proposal to have internet that is screened by ISPs to remove pornography to protect children. Adults can 'opt' to receive pornography if they want to.

19. Stop the deaths of refugees at sea - support legitimate orderly immigration

Labor and *Liberal* now have similar policy to stop the boats. *CDP, FF, AC, RUAP, DLP, ALA* all support measures to stop people coming to Australia by boat without authority.

20. Humanitarian refugee program – give priority to persecuted Christian minorities

Persecuted Christians, especially in Muslim majority countries such as Nigeria, West Papua and the Middle East, need our support. The Christian/Conservative parties support giving priority to Christians. The Coalition promised to give preference to persecuted Christian minorities re Syrian refugees.

21. Support greater care and stewardship of God's environment

Christians need to be good stewards of the environment and use resources wisely. Governments need to do the same.