

THE TURNBULL COALITION TEAM

CCHQ 2016



27 June 2016

Dr Brian Babington
Chief Executive Officer
Families Australia
Suite 3, 7 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600

Dear Dr Babington

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing your members. On behalf of the Coalition Members of Parliament and candidates I am pleased to respond to your survey.

Australia's future depends on how well we can continue to grow and shape our economy.

Only the Liberal and National Parties have an **economic plan** to do that and ensure Australia's future.

We have a clear plan to transition the economy from the mining and investment boom to a stronger and more diverse economy.

The key elements of our national economic plan for jobs and growth are:

- An Innovation and Science programme bringing Australian ideas to market. This means greater investment and more jobs and opportunities for our young people;
- A New Defence Industry plan that will secure an advanced defence manufacturing industry in Australia. This will create thousands of new hi-tech, higher paying jobs;
- Export Trade Deals that will generate more than 19,000 new export opportunities. These will create many more jobs for our urban and regional families;
- New Tax Incentives, which will include tax cuts for more small businesses. More than two million businesses can benefit, to deliver more growth and jobs; and
- A Strong New Economy with more than 200,000 jobs expected to be created.

Our national economic plan and management is already paying dividends. Last year our economy continued to grow creating almost 300,000 new jobs, many of them in small business.

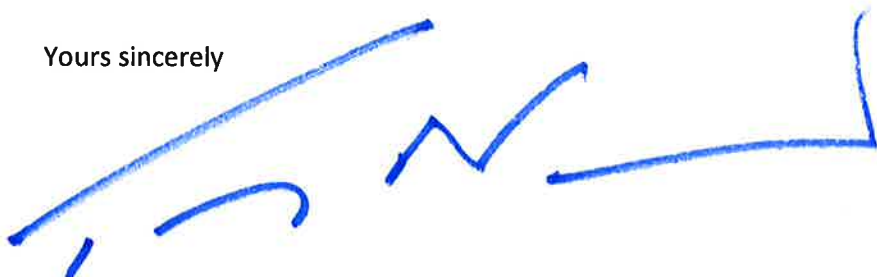
We cannot put economic growth and the jobs that come with it at risk with a return to Labor and their debt and deficits, high taxing, big spending ideas.

Only a Liberal and National Party Government can protect Australia's future.

Once announced, our policies will be available at www.liberal.org.au and www.nationals.org.au.

Thank you for communicating the Coalition's commitments to your members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several connected strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Tony Nutt'.

Tony Nutt
National Campaign Director

COALITION RESPONSE TO FAMILIES AUSTRALIA

Raise levels of financial support for child safety and wellbeing

The Turnbull Coalition is committed to ensuring that every child has the greatest possible chance in life to succeed and improving the lives of all Australians.

The Coalition Government's family payment system is generous. For example, a single income family with three children on an income of \$65,000 receives almost \$20,000 in tax free family payments.

The Coalition remains committed to providing parents with more choice and opportunity to work, and children with high quality early education, through the *Jobs for Families* child care package announced in the 2015-16 Budget. This package will create a simpler, more affordable, accessible and flexible child care system through investing more than \$40 billion in child care support over the next four years.

We know children from disadvantaged backgrounds benefit most from quality early childhood education and care, and that's why we're providing additional support to those who need it most.

Our \$1 billion Child Care Safety Net recognises vulnerable children and families need extra support.

The Child Care Safety Net will support families earning less than around \$65,000 who do not meet the activity test by providing up to 24 hours of subsidised care per fortnight. That is equivalent to two weekly six-hour sessions, and will be subsidised at the highest 85 per cent rate (an increase on the current 72 per cent).

The Coalition's child care package strikes the right balance between targeted child care support for hard working families who depend upon it, a generous safety net to protect those most vulnerable in our community and ongoing support for high quality early learning through \$843 million for 15 hours of preschool a week in the year before school.

Increase efforts to close the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians with particular regard to child protection

The Turnbull Coalition is determined to do everything it can to close the gap.

The annual Closing the Gap statement highlights the continuing challenge to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the same opportunity for future prosperity as other Australians.

But as the Prime Minister said to Parliament in his 2016 Closing the Gap speech, we should not overlook or fail to celebrate the many successes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Many First Australians are studying at universities at home and abroad; are completing medical degrees and apprenticeships; are sending their children to school; are buying homes; are starting and running businesses, and; are working towards dreams for the future that are as optimistic and diverse as the rest of the nation.

The 2016 Closing the Gap report highlighted that we are starting to see some returns in key areas, such as employment policy and progress in literacy and numeracy.

Some challenges will not be effectively tackled with new targets. It is important to maintain the focus on the existing Closing the Gap targets to avoid diluting effort in these critical areas. Targets alone do not provide a solution.

Challenges outside the Closing the Gap targets remain. For example, the incarceration rate of Indigenous Australians is too high. The Coalition will maintain its focus on efforts to deal with the factors that lead people to prison in the first place and those factors that too often lead them back there after release. A key focus will be working with States and Territories to support rehabilitation and vocational training activities within the prison system and post-release assistance into employment.

Whilst children in care is the responsibility of State and Territory Governments, the best interests of the child will always be the paramount concern of the Turnbull Coalition Government.

Every effort should be made by State and Territory authorities to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are placed with kin, or other Aboriginal people, ensuring the child's safety is the key consideration.

The Turnbull Coalition will continue to work with the State and Territory Governments, affected communities and service providers to do all we can to help protect children and young people from all forms of abuse and neglect.

Community safety is one of the Coalition's top three priorities in Indigenous Affairs, along with ensuring children attend school and that adults are in training or work. These priorities are critical to improving outcomes across a range of indicators including health. Our efforts to improve housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are also critical to ensuring we impact on the range of Closing the Gap targets.

We are committed to protecting Indigenous women and children, given that Indigenous victims of family violence make up about 25 per cent of victims nationally.

To respond to this priority, the Coalition's Indigenous Advancement Strategy included \$32.2 million in the 2016-17 Budget to deliver a number of initiatives to reduce Indigenous family and domestic violence as part of the *Third National Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children*.

Better support for adult survivors of child sexual and other abuse in institutions

The Turnbull Government is committed to ensuring redress is provided for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. Over the past few months, the Federal Government has been working closely with States and Territories on next steps for providing redress.

The Coalition's position is that the best approach to redress is a national framework of consistent principles underpinning redress schemes run within States and Territories.

The Royal Commission expressly acknowledged that its preferred option – a single national scheme – might not be achievable within a timeframe that is acceptable for survivors. Discussions with States

and Territories have confirmed that a single national scheme would not be concluded sufficiently soon. Some jurisdictions have publicly stated their opposition to a single national scheme.

We are very conscious that survivors have waited many years for the justice so wrongly denied them by their abusers.

There is more work to be done. We are carefully working through the many complex issues to achieve an outcome for survivors as soon as possible.

This issue is above party politics. On 2 May 2016, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet established a Taskforce on Redress for Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse, which will continue discussions with the States during the caretaker period. Details about the formation of the Taskforce have now been provided to all jurisdictions.