

# Uphold the value of life

## Amend one of the worst abortion laws in the world

The human being is not only body but also a soul. That soul is infinitely precious even when it is in the dependent body of an unborn baby or a terminally ill and suffering human being. It is the highest aspect of the human being during life and after a person dies, the human being continues on as that soul. Together body and soul make life. It is not for us to decide when life is to be ended except in very rare circumstances.

The Victorian abortion law not only provides abortion on demand – no questions or grounds asked – for unborn children up to 24 weeks’ gestation. Beyond that, it forces doctors to carry out, or otherwise facilitate by referral, abortions to which they have conscientious objections. Recently, under this law, a doctor risked deregistration because he refused to refer for an abortion of an unborn child, sought solely because the child was female. The idea that one can *force* a doctor to facilitate an abortion in such cases treats the unborn child like a corn in the foot, or a “benign tumour” in the womb, of its mother, in which a doctor must assist. It states that the life of the unborn child has *no* value. This attitude corrupts the moral fibre of our society and naturally leads to euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Similarly, it bolsters the idea that “free” sexuality – teenage sex and adult uncommitted sexual relationships – is a primary right completely overriding a foetal entitlement to life and that abortion is a sanitary service to clean up the human “damage”. It builds irresponsibility and non-commitment in our society in place of the idea that procreation should occur in the committed relationship of marriage, where pregnancies are wanted and children can be born and raised with love. When we drive a car we have to watch out that no one gets killed; sexuality should have the same responsibility.

### Curb the excesses of the Victorian Abortion Law Reform Act

|   |                  |                  |        |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------|
| Australian Christians<br>Democratic Labour<br>Rise Up Australia | Liberal/National | Australian Labor | Greens |
| Yes   | No               | No               | No     |

## Preserve the traditional family

### Say no to the ‘Safe Schools Coalition of Victoria’ program

An effort is being made through application of the “Safe Schools Coalition of Victoria” to validate homosexual behaviour at the very foundation of our culture – in the education of children. Any bullying can be stopped with programs other than with this agenda. It is not being driven so much by homosexuals as by the belief, held by some heterosexuals, that the human being has no particular identity and can find expression in any sexual union. This view has found its logical conclusion in Sweden today, where not only homosexual but also incestuous marriage is permitted, and where there is a movement to remove the concept of gender altogether, eliminating the distinction between male and female in child education.

The faith tradition opposes this view, which sees the human being as a purely physical being pursuing sexual gratification without boundaries. The human being has a spiritual makeup that connects our human identity with the natural procreative unit of the traditional family. Even where certain tendencies are deep-seated in individuals, the acting-out of those tendencies does not become right, just as the inborn orientation of the paedophile is not permitted to be expressed in action. It is not a matter of consent between adults (or children), because sexuality is not something which can be varied by contracts between persons, as in the market-place. Rather, it is a matter of who one is: a personal and human identity endowed by the Creator. Homosexuality is not like race: it is a behaviour, which (with or without help) a person can control. Skin colour is not.

The human being's past is from a male and female (who together bore the person). Through joining with a spouse of the opposite sex, the human's identity is projected into the future through children. Everyone, including homosexuals, is entitled to a biological mother and a father and to children which are biologically their own. That is human identity. We cannot allow a program in schools which uproots that value from our civilization.

### Support the traditional family

|   |                           |                       |           |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Australian Christians<br>Democratic Labour<br>Rise Up Australia | Liberal/National          | Australian Labor      | Greens    |
| <b>Yes</b>  | <b>Yes/No<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>No<sup>2</sup></b> | <b>No</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Supports 'Safe Schools' in some schools    <sup>2</sup> Will impose 'Safe Schools' in all Government schools

## Uphold schools' religious freedom

### Do not interfere with religious school staff appointments

One of the features of aggressive secularism is that it curbs democratic freedoms: it forces doctors to go against their consciences, it takes away (in schools with the "Safe Schools" program) the freedom of parents to have their children educated in their own values. One of the strongest forms of compulsion proposed in this election is in the policy of the Labor party to take away the freedom of religious schools to appoint their own staff.

This policy envisages taking away the exemption in the Equal Opportunity Act allowing religious schools to discriminate in the appointment of their staff on the basis of belief, lifestyle and related considerations that contradict their values. Under this policy, a religious school will be forced to justify before a secular tribunal its appointment of staff on these grounds as an "inherent requirement" of the position. In other words, a school will be inhibited in appointing staff who share its beliefs and model its values to the student body. This is more than disrespect for religion; it is the actual persecution of religious educational institutions and their transmission of faith and its associated beliefs and values.

## Grant full religious freedom to religious schools

|   |                  |                  |           |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Australian Christians<br>Democratic Labour<br>Rise Up Australia | Liberal/National | Australian Labor | Greens    |
| <b>Yes</b>  | <b>Yes</b>       | <b>No</b>        | <b>No</b> |

## Spiritual literacy in education Give children their birthright when they seek it

A psychiatrist once wrote about a patient of his, a young man suffering from depression and other difficulties, that his father had taught him – pointing to the physical world around him – “This is all there is: there is nothing else”. The cultures of faith, which have been with us for thousands of years but are suppressed in secular contemporary culture, say the opposite: “There is more than this”. What that means is that, in and beyond the physical world, there is an invisible Creator, who sustains it anew in every moment. And in the human being there is an invisible soul, the “mirror” of its Creator, which is the main identity, the essential vitality and the conscience of the human being.

Every human being has the right to be acquainted with his or her tradition of faith and to be *literate* – to be taught it with growing depth by those who believe in it – as much as one is entitled to a thorough education in English, Mathematics, Science or History. Presently there is Special Religious Instruction and a Chaplaincy program. A more rigorous program is required in accordance with the recommendation of the Review of the National Curriculum “to place more emphasis on morals, values and spirituality as outlined in the Melbourne Declaration, and to better recognise the contribution of ... our Judeo-Christian heritage”.

## A sophisticated religious education in Government schools for those who want it

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|---|------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Australian Christians<br>Democratic Labour<br>Rise Up Australia | Liberal/National | Australian Labor | Greens    |
| <b>Yes</b>  | <b>Yes</b>       | <b>Yes</b>       | <b>No</b> |

# Act in this election for the sake of our values

The Victorian election is about more than roads and level crossings. It is about whether some of the most basic values of our society will be preserved or damaged.

### Vote for parties which support these values.

In the Upper House (Legislative Council) the small parties, which have formed an alliance to support these values and one another, can also win seats. They are the Democratic Labour Party (DLP), the Australian Christians (AC) and the Rise Up Australia Party (RUAP). They hold out the possibility of a bloc which could hold the balance of power in Upper House and bring social policy in Victoria back into line with universal values.

| <b>Universal value</b>  | Value life: amend the excesses of the abortion law | Preserve the family: stop the 'Safe Schools' program in schools | Defend religious freedom: do not interfere with religious schools | Guarantee the right to a religious education in State schools |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| Australian Christians<br>Democratic Labour<br>Rise Up Australia | <b>Yes</b>   | <b>Yes</b>  | <b>Yes</b>  | <b>Yes</b>  |
| Liberal/National  | <b>No</b>  | <b>Yes/No</b>   | <b>Yes</b>  | <b>Yes</b>  |
| Australian Labor  | <b>No</b>  | <b>No</b>   | <b>No</b>   | <b>Yes</b>  |
| Greens  | <b>No</b>  | <b>No</b>   | <b>No</b>   | <b>No</b>   |

The small parties do not have a realistic chance in the Lower House (Legislative Assembly). One should vote in the Lower House for the party which has the best position on these basic issues. There are members of the major parties who are known to be supportive of our shared values and, when given the opportunity to vote for them in a conscience vote, have done so. These individual candidates should also be given consideration.

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