



Bob Patrech
Chairman
The Seniors United Party
of Australia

Chairman's Message

Dear members, we are living in difficult and confusing times. Many are finding it very difficult coping with the Covid restrictions we find ourselves under, particularly those who are alone or are suffering poor health. Yet we are better off than those 41 Australian soldiers who will not become war veterans from Afghanistan, and who will not be coming home and growing old. Less We Forget.

This morning I was pleased to have received my second Astra-Zeneca vaccination from my doctor. With two stepsons who live locally in the Wollongong area and who both work in Sydney on the railway, as well as a stepdaughter who works in a local hospital I now feel a little more comfortable. Mind you, their employers had not organised vaccinations for them even though they are in vulnerable situations to the Corona virus - this indicates a lack of health infrastructure and governance in this country.

I am also mindful that there are many Australians today facing serious difficulties due to Covid and the lock downs and I believe they are not receiving the assistance they need.

Your committee is still working on the membership audit for the Australian Electoral Commission. Our membership submission continues to be on extended time because the Electoral officers are closed due to Covid restrictions and we are unable to check membership details on their computers. The major parties are given their own electoral roll lists so they do not suffer the same restrictions.

***ask members** if they have three names on the electoral roll, or a name other than their everyday name on the roll to please tell us. As an example, my friends call me Bob but on the electoral roll and in our membership list my first name is Robert. If this is the case with your name, please call or text me on [0421 650 995](tel:0421650995). It would be a big help!*

Our August Zoom committee meeting suffered with three stoppages, but we persevered and finished the meeting in about three hours. The committee is working well together and will soon be sending out request for nominations to fill vacant spots on the committee.

We have recently supported the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association with their work to support a Private Members Bill in Federal Parliament to require registered nurses to be on duty in nursing homes 24/7.

We have also been communicating with the Council of the Aging, the West Australia Self Funded Retirees Inc, the Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW, and independent MP Andrew Wilkie's office in regards to his recent speech on the Cashless Debit Card.

During the last month there has been a lot of political activity, one might say, under the cover of the Covid news smoke screen. It would appear to be, as I believe it is called in news journalist's terms, clearing the deck for an election. In other words, the Federal Government has been carrying out activities which need to be carried out before an election to please its supporters and which many of us are concerned about.

This is why this newsletter discusses many of those items as most are not covered in the mass media, yet you need to know about them.

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STOP PRESS

Liberal and Labor team up to wipe out minor parties!!!

With little warning and a lot of malice, the Liberal and Labor parties teamed up to pass legislation requiring minor parties to prove they have over 1000 more members within the next three months, before the 2022 federal election.

This is a major attack on democracy, to destroy the real opposition parties who take 30% of the votes.

SUPA URGENTLY NEEDS MANY NEW MEMBERS



14 Reasons

Why I am a Member of SUPA

Why am I a member of the Seniors United Party of Australia. Probably for many of the same reasons you are a member of SUPA?

You may be aware that I have been a member of the Seniors United party of Australia for about five years. I cannot recall when I was ever so concerned for our country because of forces within and the behaviour of governments.

In the past I have been gravely concerned with Labour's bullying on gender issues, their attempts to remove parents rights, and the lack of freedom of speech. The Liberals and Nationals are not an alternative solution.

Now I see a greater concern in the behaviour of governments, but let me regress.

1. Age Care

During that time I have been a carer for my ageing mother before she passed away, as well as being made the person responsible for an ageing friend in a nursing home by the Guardianship Tribunal, I have dealt with the Aged Care system. With the background knowledge from my wife Christine who was a registered nurse in Age Care I have watched the decline of Aged Care under different Federal Governments – both Liberal and Labor.

The recent Royal Commission into Aged Care and Safety saw that Aged Care was in such a sad state of affairs that in the 148



Photo by Cristian Nnewman on unsplash.com

Neither major party has shown any intent to truly repair Aged Care.

recommendations it recommended that a **new Aged Care Act had to be written.**

Neither major party has shown any intent to truly repair Aged Care. Neither have indicated where a **sustainable flow of funding** will come from to pay for the urgent changes needed.

When we get to need aged care I am sure we want an Aged Care System we can trust to give us good care!

2. Unaffordable Tax Cuts Paid for by Pensioners and Older Workers

Further tax cuts to the wealthy that are to be put through parliament by the Federal Liberal government will be given the **green flag by Labor**, resulting in less chance of paying for the necessary changes to Aged Care. Also while 77,000 are still waiting for home care packages Department of Health figures confirm **28,000 have died in the last two years waiting for a home care package.** We also have thousands waiting to have their packages upgraded to match their health situation.

As for the tax cuts to the wealthy, **pensioners who lost thousands** of dollars when the Liberal Federal Government changed the part pension taper rate, and **ordinary workers who now have to work two extra years** before they can receive the Aged Pension at 67 are paying for them - thanks to Labor agreeing to the changes!

3. Taking Power from People and Small Businesses by Stopping Class Actions

Now under the cover of the media smoke screen caused by the Corona virus the Federal Liberal National government has a parliamentary Bill in the Senate which will basically **stop class actions** against multinational companies. This is one of the few ways little people and small businesses are able to fight large multinationals. One case was the Uber class action by taxi cab owners. One Nation has the final vote and are expected to vote with the Liberal Government and we will have lost one of the people's means of holding multinational corporations to account.

The deceit of the Federal Liberal government is breathtaking.

4. Cashless Debit Card for Pensioner and those on Social Security

The **Cashless Debit Card** (CDC) being pushed by the Federal Liberal government is another major concern, and we need to oppose it. The **deceit of the Federal Liberal government** is breathtaking. The government plans on paying millions of dollars to an overseas company to run a system which controls much of the finances of people on social security. There are signs that crime and mental health issues have increased under this card, and there has been little evidence that alcoholism has come down according to an independent Adelaide University report. A government inquiry received 146

submissions on the CDC. Of those, 139 apparently were against it including those from St Vincent de Paul, the Smith Family and the NSW Combined Pensioners and Superannuates Association.

5. The Farce which was the Banking Royal Commission

And we move on! We can not forget the Banking Royal Commission where major corruption went unpunished.

Despite all the media hype, no financial institution has been charged with any criminal offence. This is despite the fact that there has been ample evidence that multiple offences had occurred.

6. The Unlawful Robodebt

We must also not forget the Coalition's **Robodebt** scheme. Justice Bernard Murphy said evidence showed that the Centrelink debt recovery program was unlawful, yet no minister or public servant lost their job! **Suicides** were linked to this debt recovery program. The government initially unlawfully recovered \$751m, but the compensation settlement to the victims was \$1.8bn.

If you own solar panels, you could be made to pay a Sun Tax on your investment.

7. The Sun Tax on Roof Top Solar Energy

And there is more! Now ordinary Australians have been supporting the change to renewable energy with record rooftop installation of solar panels. Under this Federal Liberal government **the Australian Energy Market Commission has given a tick to the government placing a Sun Tax** on energy going from these roof top panels to the grid.

If you own solar panels, you could



Photo by Alex Mortensen.

be made to pay a Sun Tax on your investment.

When the Federal Government says it is going to rely on technology to bring down our energy needs which rely on carbon, it's just a porky!

8. Billionaires Keep Their Privileged Position Regarding Tax

And yet we have another act of pandering to the billionaires. Australia Independent Senator Rex Patrick's amendment to the Senate to repeal Paul Keating's 1995 grandfathering exemption (only meant to last about 2 years) protecting 1,119 large proprietary companies from publicly lodging financial accounts with corporate regulator ASIC was voted down by the Liberal/National Federal Government with the help of Pauline Hanson's support.

Unlike ordinary citizens, billionaires don't have to publicly disclose their financial accounts and tax affairs which may involve sneaky offshore entities. One could suspect there is a little bribery here with large funding donations probably coming back at election time to the Labor, Liberal/National and One Nation parties.

9. Australia Post to Be Privatised?

An interesting issue was the Prime Minister's disgraceful treatment of Christine Holgate, the former head of Australia Post. She bought expensive watches for executives gaining a deal that was in the interest of ordinary Australians and which saved thousands of dollars in

bonuses. **Stories have it that this unhinged the prime Minister's plan to sell off and privatise Australia post.** She was forced out of her top job at Australia post, but has been snapped up by a lucky competitor.

Our postal service has been halved with deliveries being reduced to only a few days a week. At the same time, our postal charges have doubled in recent years.

10. Age Discrimination

We need to also look at Age Discrimination. There are many examples. One is where people of pension age need considerable medical support. If you are younger than 65 you can receive support from **NDIS** which is said to be about four times better than the services you get as an aged pensioner. There is also the bowel cancer test where free testing ends at the age of 75. Cancer doesn't!

11. Attack on Small Political Parties

Now we have the Federal Government attacking small political parties by presently having a Bill before parliament aiming to triple the required number of members small political parties need to be registered. Approximately 30 percent of voters in recent elections have shown that by voting for parties other than the major parties they do not want to support them. This change is a direct **attack on the democratic process** of this country. Again, with Labor's assistance, this Bill has passed!

12. Attack on Charities

And the attacks do not stop there! The Morrison Government is attacking charities!

It's claimed the Morrison's Government's proposed new governance standard 3 could see charities shut down for speaking out. The regulations would discourage charities from promoting and having a presence at common peaceful protests, from sharing resources and supporting community groups as advocates. And it is stated that the red tape associated with the new standard would affect every one of the 59,000 charities in this country, and if they failed to comply they could be deregistered! One would wonder which government department is going to do all the paperwork to police this.

13. Governing the Country for the Wealthy and Large Corporations

Further evidence the **Coalition Federal Government is only governing this country for a wealthy minority** has now become quite clear. We now know that the government is chasing 11,000 individual income support recipients with debt notices who received \$32 million in JobKeeper payments. It is not doing the same to large public firms who keep their JobKeeper payments.

It has been reported that one of many companies that received unnecessary JobKeeper payments, Seven West Media refuses to repay more than \$50 million in JobKeeper payments when it made a \$318 million annual net profit! The company then paid \$1.89 million in executive bonuses last financial year. **Taxpayers money has helped fund the company executives' salary package**, and this has happened in dozens of companies in Australia.

Many companies took the money from the public purse, and it appears the **Government never intended to retrieve any over payment as there is no public register**, unlike New Zealand, listing the recipient companies in Australia! Many see corruption in governments in Africa, Asia or South America while many believe

The Seniors United Party of Australia offers a way out of this malaise.

they see it right here! And there is more still!

14. Major Parties disenfranchise Seniors, plus Electoral Reform

Both major political parties have disenfranchised seniors and many others in the Australian community. The **changing of electoral laws** by the major parties which negatively affect minor parties and independent candidates to the advantage of themselves has been an ongoing habit of the major parties to limit the democratic choice and points to the need for **electoral reform** and improve the democratic process for all voting Australians. **Political donations** have and remain probably the biggest corrupting influence followed by the **gaining of high powered jobs after politics**, particularly by former Federal Ministers. **Political lobbying by big and financially powerful bodies** such as the banks, and the media also needs new laws to contain them.

The Seniors United Party Offers a Way Out

Minor political parties, particularly **the Seniors United Party of Australia offers a way out of this malaise**, being a party of the centre, without the influences of greed, power, corruption, sexual confusion and bullying. It supports religious freedom and does not condone censorship unless there is a tangible risk of real harm.

Why I became a Member

Becoming a member of the Seniors United Party of Australia was **a very real and positive step I could take** to help our country become **a fairer, safer, and caring nation, particularly towards Seniors who we all will be one day.**

I believe young or old, you need to act now, otherwise the freedoms and rights you have today will not be there tomorrow!

Bob Patrech,
Chairman, The Seniors United Party of Australia
0421 650 995
bobpatrech@gmail.com

JOIN SUPA NOW

MAKE IT A STRONGER VOICE FOR SENIORS



Photo by Jen Theodore on unsplash.com

Your Committee

Chairperson

Bob Patrech (NSW) 0421 650 995

Secretary

Warwick Stacey (NSW) 0425 276 388

Treasurer

Bob Patrech (NSW) 0421 650 995

Committee

Helen Ducker (NSW) 0478 227 161

Bob Burdett (WA) 0458 132 280

Kelvin Matthews (WA) 0499 185 028

Rod Hosking (VIC) 0412 690 333



At the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association rally outside Scott Morrison's office in Cronulla for repairing Aged Care earlier this year. Photo by Bob Patrech.

Contact

FEDERAL PARTY

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NSW 2525

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 0421 650 995

WESTERN AUSTRALIA DIVISION

Seniors United Party of
Australia WA

✉ supawa-admin@iinet.net.au

 0458 132 280

Helpful Information

Older Person Advocacy Network	1800 700 600
COTA NSW Older Person's Covid-19 Support Line	1800 171 866
Apply for an Aged Care Assessment	1800 200 422
Information Hotline for older Australians during Covid-19 pandemic	1800 171 866
My Aged Care	1800 200 422
Disability Covid-19 Information Hotline	1800 643 787
Centrelink Aged Pension	13 23 00
British Pensioners in Australia	1300 308 353
Aged Care Complaints Line	1800 951 822
Australian Human Rights Commission	1300 369 711
Commonwealth Ombudsman	1300 362 072
Guardianship Tribunal	1300 006 228
Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman	1800 062 058

**SPREAD
THE WORD -
FORWARD THIS
NEWSLETTER TO
YOUR FRIENDS
OF ANY AGE**

Graphic design of the Seniors
United Party of Australia newsletter
by graphic designer Ekaterina
Mortensen 0423 172 342

SUPA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

**You may be a senior now, or you may be younger,
but at some time in the future you will be a senior.**

It is in your interests, and the interest of all seniors,
to join SUPA right NOW, as serious long term decisions are
being made in the Federal parliament right now that
NEEDED A STRONG VOICE FOR SENIORS.

Currently seniors, who make up a very important part of
Australian society, are neglected by both major political parties.
A strong SUPA, even when not in parliament, can lobby for seniors.
A SUPA member of parliament will be an even
stronger voice for seniors.

A SUPA membership application form is at the end of this newsletter.
Please consider joining, complete the form and send it to
Membership, SUPA, 41 Bellevue Rd, FIGTREE, NSW 2525

JOIN SUPA NOW - MAKE IT A STRONGER VOICE FOR SENIORS



APPLICATION FORM



SENIORS UNITED PARTY of AUSTRALIA

Please complete all details as requested so as to satisfy Electoral Commission requirements

Name Details (as on Electoral Roll)

First Name:	Middle Names:	Surname:
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Address Details (as on Electoral Roll)

Number & Street Name:		
Suburb:	State:	Postcode:
HOME PHONE:	MOBILE:	
EMAIL:	Date of Birth:	

Electorates:

STATE ELECTORATE:	FEDERAL ELECTORATE:
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Other Parties:

Are you currently a member of another political party?	YES / NO	Details:
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Signature:

Signed:	Date:
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Membership is by a donation of \$10 which is tax deductible

POST TO:

Membership
41 Bellevue Road,
FIGTREE
NSW 2525

BANK DETAILS:

Account Name: Seniors United Party of Australia
Bank: St George Bank
BSB: 112 879
Account Number: 458 253 659

If you elected to send the donation by EFT
please put your FULL NAME and SUBURB in the reference field of your online banking payment.