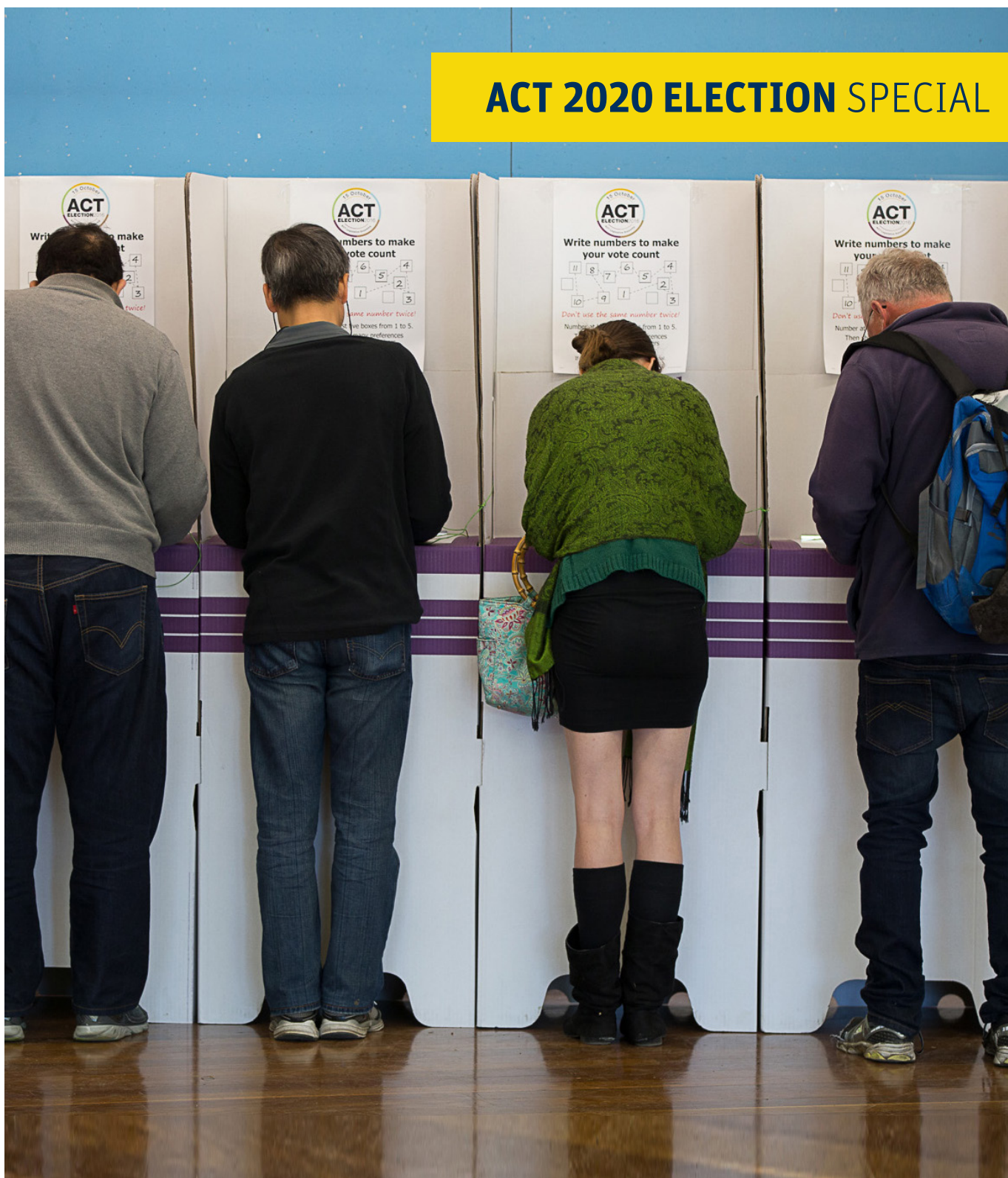




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ACT 2020 ELECTION SPECIAL





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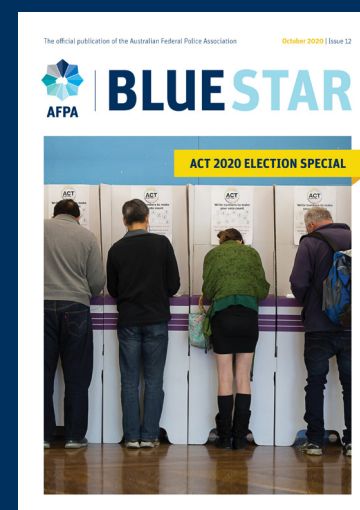
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Magazine cover:
It's time to head to the polls.

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President



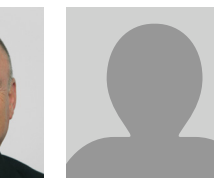
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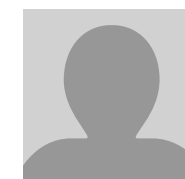
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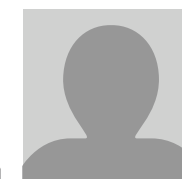
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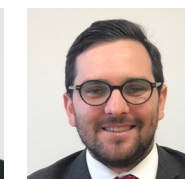


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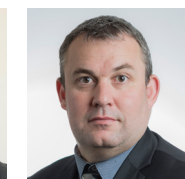
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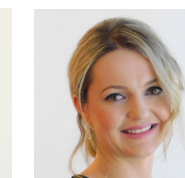
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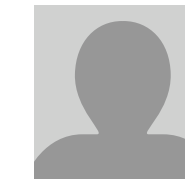
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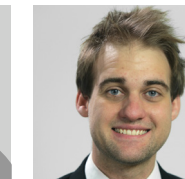
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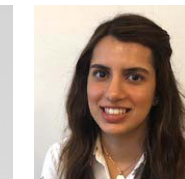
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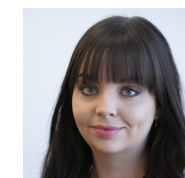
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Industrial Officer



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Industrial Officer



Maria Nazir
Industrial Officer



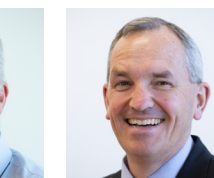
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Business Services

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Police Association
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Alex Caruana, President

President Alex Caruana

AFP Items

Dear members,

We have arrived at an event that only occurs every four years in the ACT, but can impact significantly on your workplace and the services that you provide to the community. It's the ACT election.

This special edition of BlueStar will present each party's policies and platforms on policing and justice issues, presented in their own words and unedited by the Association.

Throughout the campaign period, the AFPA has been leveraging its extensive network to engage with political parties and candidates directly and put forward our ideas on the commitments we'd like to see.

For this election, we've taken a community-based approach. We want outcomes that benefit both the AFPA's members and the greater ACT community. We can all agree that Gungahlin Police Station requires an urgent upgrade and that the Traffic Operations Centre should be condemned as a not-fit-for-purpose police building. More police officers on the ground will mean better response times for the community and would allow frontline officers to have a better work-life balance and leave opportunities. The Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) initiative is kicking goals and achieving outcomes that benefit consumers and police. We are also working on legislative issues and amendments such as anti-consorting and firearm prohibition orders in the background that will be a specific benefit for members, and we will continue to work on these post-election.

The AFPA is committed to getting the best outcomes for its members, and we are working hard lobbying candidates and political parties. What we are taking into the election campaign as our 'wish list' is:

- New Police Station for Gungahlin and Traffic Operations Centre and funding for a scoping paper on a new ACT Policing HQ and City Police Station
 - Gungahlin Station and the Traffic Operations Centre are not functional, operational police facilities. Both well past the 'use-by' date
 - The Traffic Operations Centre is currently under a Comcare investigation due to its poor condition
 - The City Police Station and Winchester Police Centre are old, and they leak when it rains
- More police officers
 - The ACT currently has the lowest number of police officers per 100,000 population, and well below the Australian average. We'd like to see the ACT meet the Australian average.
 - NT = 713
 - SA = 313
 - VIC = 301
 - QLD = 284
 - WA = 281
 - **AUST AVG: 278**
 - TAS = 265
 - NSW = 237
 - ACT = 205
 - More police on the ground means:
 - Better response rates
 - More time to conduct investigations instead of just going job-to-job
 - Better engagement with the community through proactive patrols of community precincts such as shopping centres, open spaces etc. (which police often don't have time to do, as they are going job-to-job)
 - Better work-life balances and leave opportunities. Lack of leave opportunities and tired and overworked members lead to negative mental health and performance outcomes
 - More opportunities for police officers to contribute to road safety initiatives, as opposed to simply going job-to-job

▶ We want you to make informed decisions when casting your vote. **It isn't the role of the AFPA to tell you who to vote for, but we want you to be informed in the leadup to the election.** Closer to election day, we'll prepare a report card detailing what each party is offering the law and justice environment.

- Increased penalties for 'assault community frontline worker' legislation
 - A maximum of two years isn't sufficient for assaulting a community frontline (CFW) worker (Police, Firefighter, Ambulance/Paramedic officer). We believe five years is appropriate
 - The two-year maximum penalty is the same penalty for a common assault. We think that assaulting a CFW is more serious
 - We need action on the disparity on the penalties defined in the legislation. If someone deliberately crashes into or rams a police car (regardless of injuries), the maximum penalty is 15 years. If I assault a police officer, it's two years
- Permanent funding for PACER (Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response - Mental Health initiative)
 - PACER is a very efficient and effective model of providing triaged, direct MH support to people experiencing an MH crisis
 - PACER keeps operational police officers on the road and transitions people into the appropriate care they need
 - Since its inception, PACER has seen outstanding results and better outcomes for people experiencing an MH crisis:
 - A reduction in the number of people who have needed to be transported to a hospital
 - Less MH clients being conveyed to the ACT Watch House or taken into police custody
 - Less 'on the ground' police resources required to manage these incidents
 - 80% of people who have been assessed by PACER were suitable to be left in their home
- Wage Freeze
 - Without workplace allowances (a composite), AFP (including ACT Policing) employees are some of the worst paid officers in the country
 - ACT Policing and AFP officers have been at the coalface of the COVID-19 pandemic, putting the community and their job before their own and their families' health

- The Federal Government expects AFP and ACT Policing officers to maintain the safety of and provide protection for all Australians - and their thankyou to these officers and support staff is a pay freeze.

We want you to make informed decisions when casting your vote. It isn't the role of the AFPA to tell you who to vote for, but we want you to be informed in the leadup to the election. Closer to election day, we'll prepare a report card detailing what each party is offering the law and justice environment.

If you're out and about in Canberra you will likely come across a candidate campaigning; regardless of the party they represent, I would strongly suggest that you take a few minutes to chat with them.

The more engagement and voice from the membership on these issues, the better for the success of our campaign.

Stay safe, and please take the time to digest this magazine. Most importantly, make your vote count.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Caruana
President

Operation Recognition

Our plan to support ACT Policing to keep the ACT community safe

Throughout these unprecedented times, ACT Policing has worked hard to keep the ACT community safe. Every day our members put themselves on the front line, prepared to commit themselves regardless of the risk.

As we approach the ACT election, we are now asking for all candidates to match that commitment by endorsing our simple five-point plan to support ACT Policing.



AFPA

Australian Federal
Police Association

▶ 1. More police on patrol

The ACT currently has the lowest number of police officers per 100,000 population at 205 officers. This is well below the Australian average of 278 officers. The ACT must meet the Australian average as the ACT community continues to expand.

▶ 2. New facilities

We seek a commitment for a new police station in Gungahlin, a new Traffic Operations Centre and funding for the development of a scoping paper on a new ACT Policing HQ and City Police Station.

▶ 3. Tougher penalties for assaulting police

We seek a commitment to increase the maximum penalty for assaulting a police officer from two years to five years.

▶ 4. Oppose the AFP wage freeze

The Federal Government is proposing a six month freeze on wages. At a time when ACT Policing officers are under real stress and overworked, this is unacceptable and would lead to a real cut in take home pay. We are calling on all candidates to publicly affirm their opposition to such a freeze.

▶ 5. PACER Funding

We seek permanent funding for PACER (Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response) to keep operational police officers on the road and transition people into the appropriate care and treatment they need.

AFPA POLICY PACK: Our Plan for Law, Order & Community Safety



Alistair Coe
is the ACT Liberal Leader, and
member for Yerrabi

www.voteliberal.org.au

Context

For years, Labor and the Greens have been distracted by their pet projects and have cut resources from our police force to help pay for them.

There are 50 fewer frontline police officers than there were 10 years ago, and the ACT has the lowest number of officers and funding per capita in Australia.

Labor's distracted approach to law and order has also left Canberrans exposed. The ACT remains, for example, the only jurisdiction without anti-consorting laws aimed at Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs, resulting in an increase in gangs and gang violence.

Four more years of Labor and the Greens will only mean more cuts to our police and a distracted approach to the fundamental role of government in keeping our community safe.

Our Plan

We want to make Canberra the best place to live, work and raise a family. This means having a safe community, fully resourced police force and a robust law and order system.

The Canberra Liberals will hire an additional 130 frontline police officers, build new police stations in Molonglo and Gungahlin, and improve our justice system with much-needed law reform. We will also pass presumptive mental health legislation to provide our police with the mental health care and support that they need.

The Detail

GROWING THE FRONTLINE

Our community is growing, but our frontline police force is not. The Canberra Liberals will fund an additional 130 police officers to help keep our streets safer.

The Canberra Liberals are committed to growing our frontline workforce.

MORE STATIONS

A Canberra Liberals Government will invest in new infrastructure for our police and emergency services.

In addition to new emergency services stations in the City and Molonglo Valley, a Canberra Liberals Government will build a new state-of-the-art fire and ambulance station in Gungahlin.

The Canberra Liberals will build new police stations in Molonglo Valley and Gungahlin.

The new Gungahlin Police Station will remain at the existing site and will expand into the space created by the moving of fire and ambulance services to a new Gungahlin emergency services station.

We will also invest in improvements to existing stations and offices, including the City Police Station and the Traffic Operations Centre.

STRONGER LAWS TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY

Since the passage of anti-consorting laws in every other State and Territory, bkie gangs in the ACT have doubled, and a series of very violent incidents have occurred as a 'turf war' rages. A Canberra Liberals Government will pass anti-consorting laws that provide the Canberra community the same protections and safety as every other person in the country.

We will introduce Firearms Prohibition Orders, another key tool used by law enforcement in other states to tackle organised and bkie crime through the use of targeted, court-ordered sanctions.

STRONGER LAWS TO PROTECT OUR FRONTLINE WORKERS

The Canberra Liberals are committed to strengthening laws to protect our frontline police, emergency services and corrections workers. Consistent with legislation we have previously brought to the Assembly, we will increase the assault frontline worker provision maximum penalty to 5 years.

Only a Canberra Liberals Government will give frontline responders the legal protections they deserve to help keep them safe on the job.

IMPROVING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Canberra Liberals are committed to improving the justice system through reforms to bail and sentencing. We will conduct a comprehensive review into bail and sentencing to end the revolving door of repeat offenders. We will also assess the suitability of suspended sentencing and intensive corrections orders for serious offences, such as sexual violence, where a convicted child sex offender has recently been ordered to serve his sentence in the community.

The Canberra Liberals will also employ a full-time coroner to relieve the workload currently undertaken by a magistrate, and guarantee funding for Legal Aid to support victims of domestic and family violence under the Safer Families Levy.

BETTER MENTAL HEALTH CARE

A Canberra Liberals Government will reform the way we recognise and manage mental injury in our frontline workforces by implementing presumptive legislation. This legislative reform will shift the burden from frontline workers to prove their injury, instead operating on the presumption that their injury occurred at or because of their stressful, dangerous and at times traumatic work.

As part of these reforms, we will also provide additional mental health and peer-to-peer support for our frontline workers with funding to create a new model of care.

Our frontline workers should not have to battle the system to get the care they need. With the right legislative framework and peer-to-peer support, we can provide the mental health care that our respected frontline workers deserve.

EBA NEGOTIATIONS

The expectations of how we employ and treat our first responders and the burdens many of them live with as a result of their work, mean that we have to modernise their work and conditions.

The contractual arrangements with the AFP in the delivery of ACT Policing services leaves the ACT Government with limited control to influence or improve key workplace rights and conditions. Our police should receive better care and management of mental health injuries and should not be subject to a pay freeze after all that they have done for our community, particularly during this unprecedented year.

A Canberra Liberals Government will work with the Commonwealth Government and AFP as they negotiate the new enterprise agreement to deliver an agreement that better recognises and supports our ACT Policing personnel.

Further, the Canberra Liberals are committed to a number of key measures to reduce the cost of living for all Canberrans. These include freezing rates for four years to save around \$400/year, lowering car rego costs by \$100/year and delivering new Active Kids Vouchers all while delivering better services.

FIXING THE BROKEN PRISON

Under Labor and the Greens, Canberra's prison is a mess. It has been plagued with controversy, including two deaths, multiple escapes, record rates of assault, severe overcrowding, rampant drug abuse, and is the most expensive to run in the country.

A Canberra Liberals Government will provide the leadership and management needed to run a functional prison. We will implement a structured daily program for detainees to improve their rehabilitation and job prospects for their transition out of prison, repurpose the soon-to-be under construction reintegration centre to be a fully functional women's prison, and separate unsentenced remandees from convicted inmates wherever possible.

Our police deserve better



First and foremost, thank you for your service to our great city. You are there for us at our toughest times, and we can always rely on each and every one of you.

Giulia Jones MLA

Shadow Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Your families give up so much for you to work the long hours you do, the pressures you take on, and the danger you put yourself in. It's because of you and your families that I have worked every day to do what I can to make it better for you on the frontline as you keep our community safe.

You deserve a government that will back you all the way, both at work and at home.

Over the past decade, the number of frontline police officers has fallen by 50. Meanwhile, the population has grown by about 50,000. The ACT has the lowest number of police and the lowest funding per capita. Every year you get asked to do more with less. Police infrastructure in Canberra is not up to scratch. Gungahlin station is tiny, the City station too old, and the Traffic Operations Centre floods whenever there is heavy rain.

On top of this, you have not been given enough support and backing to do your jobs the way you know is best. Labor and the Greens' refusal to pass anti-consorting laws to help police stop bikie crime is an obvious example.

It is clear that the Labor-Greens Government is tired and stuck in its way. They are easily distracted by their pet projects, and our frontline services are paying the price.

The Canberra Liberals believe there is a better way. We want to make Canberra the best place to live, work and raise a family. This means lowering the cost of living by freezing rates for four years, saving families around \$400 per year, and cutting car rego by \$100 per year. It also means having a safe community, a fully resourced police force and a robust law and order system.

That is why the Canberra Liberals are committed to hiring an additional 130 frontline police officers. We will deliver new policing infrastructure, including new stations in Molonglo Valley and Gungahlin. We will build a new Fire and Ambulance Station in Gungahlin, freeing up the existing joint station for police to take over the whole site.

We will also improve our justice system with much-needed law reforms, including the passage of anti-consorting laws and firearm prohibition orders.

We will conduct a comprehensive review into sentencing and parole to end the revolving door of repeat offenders. We will also assess the suitability of suspended sentencing and intensive corrections orders for serious offences such as sexual violence, which has seen a convicted child sex offender be ordered to serve his sentence in the community.

A Canberra Liberals Government will strengthen laws to protect our police on the job. Consistent with legislation we have previously brought to the Assembly, we will increase the assault on frontline worker provision maximum penalty to 5 years.

After years of police assault laws being knocked back by Labor and the Greens, it is clear that only a Canberra Liberals Government will give frontline responders the legal protections you deserve to help keep you safe on the job.

We also recognise the need for better laws to support the mental health and wellbeing of police. We will pass new laws to better recognise and manage mental injury in the workplace.

New, presumptive legislation will shift the burden from police having to prove their injury, instead operating on the presumption that their injury occurred at or because of their stressful, dangerous and at times traumatic work.

You should not have to battle the system to get the care you need. With the right legislative framework, we can provide the mental health care that you deserve.

We are committed to growing, supporting and providing all the resources that our police need.

You deserve our respect and you deserve our support and we will provide it if elected to government on 17 October.



Tap into your network

Refer **four** people and receive a membership rebate of **\$1200**.

*Terms & conditions apply.

**Member
Get a Member
Program**





If you vote the same, you'll get the same – the Canberra Progressives Demand Better

The Canberra Progressives are a political party which values ethics over influence, evidence over opinion, and collaboration over collusion. We want politics that builds community, and encourages people to be part of the change they want to see in Canberra.

Platforms

CRIMINAL LAW REFORM (AUSTRALIAN PROGRESSIVES)

- We will modernise our justice system by harmonizing all state, territory and federal criminal laws.

REDUCE THE BURDEN OF RATES

- Develop a public asset portfolio to reduce government reliance on commercial rates.
- Establish a task force to review the commercial rates system.
- Create a fairer, individualised commercial and residential rates assessment method.
- More rapid phase-out of stamp duty.

REVIEW THE STRUCTURE OF THE ACT PUBLIC SERVICE

- Complete efficiency review of the public service.
- Eliminate silos within the ACT Government to empower the public service to work better for the community.

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

- Consolidate the ACT public service into sustainable, eco-friendly, easily maintained buildings.
- Ensure all new ACT public housing is eco-friendly, and renewably powered.

FAQ

ARE YOU LEFT WING, RIGHT WING OR CENTRIST?

Members of the Canberra Progressives might individually identify with a particular political position but as a political party, our progressive platform has been informed through our values as progressives. It is these values, not dogma or tribalism, which drive our policies and behaviours; evidence-based decision making, ethical behaviour, empathetic problem solving, empowerment across all communities, equality of opportunity and positive engagement with all citizens.

Whilst others may be tempted to describe our policies in terms of a political belief, we go where the evidence points us, focussed on the goal of building a community with a brighter, more compassionate and ambitious future. We will always support smart policy if the evidence and community sentiment supports it.

ARE YOU COMMUNISTS OR SOCIALISTS?

No. History tells us that the communist and state socialist ideologies failed to translate into social, economic and political progress and achievement. We strongly believe in the power of local community grassroots activism. From there, we look to build thoughtful, accountable, intelligent

and respectful policies empowering and engaging not just local communities but the individuals within them.

WHERE ARE YOUR PREFERENCES GOING?

We do not participate in electoral deal making under any circumstance. We evaluate other non-progressive candidates based upon the merit of their policies.

Preference by party or use of a 'preference whisperer' conflicts with our values. We make preferencing decisions based on individual electorates, assessing which other candidates best match those values.

WHAT'S YOUR VIEW ON RELIGION?

We believe all people have the right to practice their faith in peace and safety. Conversely, nobody has the right to inflict physical, emotional or economic suffering or disadvantage on others based on their own beliefs or religion.

We strongly believe in the separation of church and state and reject any religious influence on public policy. We will always fight to uphold a secular state.

Candidates

TIM BÖHM



I'm a born and bred Canberran. I grew up here, went to school here and have run a successful business here for the past 15 years.

I think Canberra is the best city in the world, but it could be much better. I am committed to tackling corruption in all forms and to promoting principles of integrity and accountability in all of my endeavours. My hope is the Progressives make the first steps in breaking the unfair cycle that the major parties have on the local and federal political system. I want the Progressives to provide a new fresh progressive and independent alternative for Canberra voters.

Kurrajong

THERESE FAULKNER



I am horrified at the gradual erosion of ethics, accountability and transparency in Australian politics. We need sensible alternative voices

in the legislative assembly to ensure that progress in the ACT is underpinned by transparent processes and solid principles, policies and actions. I have the skills, experience and personal attributes to do this. I've lived and worked in the ACT for more than 40 years, attending school and raising my children here. I've worked at senior executive levels in the Australian Public Service and in private enterprise, and have been an active participant in the community through sporting activities and the arts.

PETA SWARBRICK



I've managed a household, nursed a parent, stayed married, sent my kids off to Uni and juggled relationships. In other words I've

lived a life like yours, I've experienced the highs and lows of life, it's trials and frustrations, joys and challenges. That is what I will bring to government as your elected representative, life experience,

business experience, community experience. I am passionate about issues of inequality, increasing homelessness, and the shamefully high incarceration rates of Aboriginal women in ACT gaols. I'm concerned about the wealth of developers and the lack of affordable housing, and the cuts to social services. Canberra should be leading the country in innovation, public transport and education and we aren't. Our hospitals are not coping, and we are letting many members of our community down.

Murrumbidgee

ROBERT KNIGHT



I'm a Canberran by birth who left town at 18 years of age to pursue a career in the Australian Defence Force.

After 21 years of service living and working in all corners of Australia, and some overseas as well, it was an easy choice to come home and raise a family here. Canberra is a great city and my family and I love living here, but I think it should be an even greater place to live - for all of us. I'm concerned about growing inequality, particularly when it comes to housing affordability and the cost of living. I'm frustrated by our Government who seem to think they don't have to pay attention to us, and the ineffective opposition doing nothing to hold them to account. I'm running because I think I can do a better job. I reckon we all say 'enough' with self interested politicians, and Demand Better. We deserve it.

STEPHEN LIN



I have lived and worked in Queensland most of my last 24 years since my arrival in Australia in 1995. I moved to Canberra to seek

better public school for my three children who are under 8. Through years of experience gained as community lawyer, disability advocate and multiculturalism promoter, I have developed sensitivity to social issues and felt strongly about the reforms we desperately need in ACT. The current political structure has built a status quo benefiting major parties. Their complacency means Canberra cannot reach its potentials.

Yerrabi

BETHANY WILLIAMS



I'm Bethany – and I want what you want. Accountable and responsible government that listens to the needs of the community,

and not secret donors, vested interests or internal party factions.

This why I have put myself forward as a candidate with the Canberra Progressives. Because if I'm in the Legislative Assembly representing Yerrabi, I have no party line to toe, and no donors I have to keep happy. The residents of Yerrabi are my only stakeholders.

One of the top five things I want to push for in my first 100 days is getting a new police station in Gungahlin. The current one is too small, and is far from satisfactory. To be able to keep our community safe and our police properly supported, we need to have a police station that is fit for purpose. I'd also like to see the PCYC expanded to Gungahlin. They do amazing with with troubled youth, and if we can bring them to Yerrabi, it will have such a positive effect.

MIKE STELZIG



I'm Mike Stelzig. I've been working in the ACT for 13 years. The ACT has potential to excel and provide state of

the art services, planning and living. Since coming to the ACT in 2007, I have seen a steady decline in the quality, affordability and overall planning ability of the Territory government. Hospitals are overfilled, there's a lack of qualified health professionals and specialists and I find it astounding that to get specialist treatment that I have to travel interstate. There's only one way forward for democracy in the ACT - that's to elect representatives who are not bound by right or left wing ideology, unions, industry, religious or any other particular lobby group. I stand for empathy over fear and ethics over influence. I will make evidence based decisions and won't be guided by mere opinion. I will serve the ACT electorate and not those who donate to the party.

Canberra Progressives is a branch of the Australian Progressives – www.progressives.org.au



ACT Labor has your back

During this term of Government, ACT Labor has made the largest investments in ACT Policing in more than 30 years to support our police to meet the growing demands of our community.

Our \$33.9 million commitment is helping ACT Policing transition towards a more connected, community focussed police service and hire more than 60 staff over the coming years.

The changes to ACT Policing will be guided by you.

The ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis has underscored the integral role of police officers and supporting teams and we are committed to supporting you through these challenging times.

The welfare of our first responders is something that has been at the forefront of my work as the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. The new Police Services Model will deliver a second dedicated psychologist to provide more support to members.

If re-elected, ACT Labor will continue to work closely with the Chief Police Officer on initiatives to support your mental health.

We back the great work that our frontline police and those behind the scenes do each and every day to protect and care for Canberrans.

Mick Gentleman, MLA
Member for Brindabella
Minister for Police and
Emergency Services

We have passed new laws to better protect officers on the front line. The Crimes (Protection of Frontline Community Service Providers) Amendment Act 2020 created a new offence for assaults against police and other frontline workers, including firefighters, paramedics, emergency service employees and volunteers and corrections workers.

This new legislation sends a clear message that violence towards police will not be tolerated in the ACT and offenders will face severe consequences that will remain on their criminal records.

Labor also created new driving offences against driving at police and ramming police vehicles to provide a major deterrent against this highly dangerous conduct.

We know that Canberrans feel safe as a result of the great work of our police officers. The ACT experiences low crime rates compared to other jurisdictions and overall offence rates have decreased over the last decade.

The Canberra community also reports high levels of satisfaction with ACT Policing, with 87.3% of people in the ACT believing police perform their job professionally.

ACT Labor is committed to improving the facilities for our police and emergency services.

Our most recent budget provided \$9.2 million over four years to upgrade ACT Policing facilities. We have also provided more COVID-19 stimulus funding for improvements to City Police Station.

New stations will be informed by extensive feasibility work to assess the area's needs and explore options including upgrading existing facilities and new construction. This feasibility work is underway for Gungahlin and Winchester police stations, which will inform our next steps if we are re-elected. Work is also underway on the future of the Traffic Operations Centre.

I'm also committed to ensuring our officers continue to be paid fairly for their outstanding contribution the community.

I recently wrote to Minister Dutton asking for the Commonwealth to take steps to ensure ACT Policing members are not impacted by any Commonwealth pay freeze. The pay rise for ACT Policing members is provided for by the ACT Government and the Commonwealth should ensure first responders.

As we head to the election, my biggest hope is that ACT Policing continues to have a Minister who respects and understands the operational independence of ACT Policing.

I trust and respect our members. We have the best police force in the Australia and I hope I am lucky enough to continue working with you if Canberrans re-elect the ACT Labor Government.

www.actlabor.org.au



Building Communities Not Prisons

Shane Rattenbury has been a Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly since 2008 and is currently the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Corrections and Justice Health, Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, and Mental Health.

Shane became an environmental advocate at a young age, and joined the Greens while studying Economics and Law at ANU. Inspired by the environmental issues of the 1980's and 90's, including ozone depletion, Antarctic protection, and logging, he started working for Greenpeace Australia in 1998. In 2005, as head of their global oceans campaign, he led an expedition of ships to Antarctica to confront the Japanese whaling fleet.

Through successive Parliamentary Agreements negotiated with ACT Labor since 2012, Shane has achieved a range of positive Green policy outcomes for Canberrans. Shane has been the ACT Greens Spokesperson for Police, Emergency Services and Attorney-General related portfolio matters since he first became a member of the Assembly.

Over many years, the ACT Greens have held a strong commitment to increasing community safety and enhancing human rights.

Shane has led the Greens to supporting drug driving laws, and later as Minister for Road Safety (and informed by being a cyclist himself), developed the robust vulnerable road users laws that he believes could be further strengthened by increased police resourcing and enforcement. He has taken a keen interest in victims' matters, and championed the recent introduction of a Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime, while also overseeing the ongoing implementation of restorative justice sentencing options.

Shane believes that the COVID-19 crisis should be treated as an opportunity to build a better normal for Canberra. Rather than snapping back to an 'old normal' characterised by growing inequality, housing affordability problems and environmental degradation, he wants to reimagine our community in a way that tackles these problems and sets our city up for the decades ahead. His vision includes a substantial investment in affordable housing so that everyone has a roof over their heads, maintaining Canberra as a leader on real climate action, and ensuring our city continues to be the bush capital, and a haven for wildlife.

He wants to ensure that the justice system increases community safety, reduces offending and reoffending, and supports and enables rehabilitation wherever possible. Shane understands that a strong and well functioning justice system creates a more equitable and cohesive community to the benefit of everyone.

On the personal front, Shane is currently a proud resident of the Inner North, a keen runner and triathlete, and a big fan of 80s Aussie pub rock, 90's Triple J and Aussie hip hop.

CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

The ACT Greens believe everyone has a right to live in a safe and peaceful community, free from crime and fear of violence. We are committed to an evidence-driven approach to crime which recognises the value of crime prevention and addresses the social determinants of crime.

We know that an essential foundation of this approach requires ACT Policing to be well resourced and skilled, to have close relationships with the ACT community, and to be able to respond to the community's diverse needs with flexibility and innovation. While crime rates are going down, incarceration rates are going up. A growing population, together with more awareness around domestic, family and sexual assault, are part of the story. More effective policing, increased short term remand orders, social issues like unemployment, poverty and family trauma, particularly among young offenders, also have an impact.

As imprisonment rates rise, the challenges of housing growing rates of detainees are only going to increase, and the Greens don't believe we can—in good conscience—maintain the status quo. That's where Justice Reinvestment comes in.

By building communities, not just more prisons, we can act to ensure that we support individuals to break the criminal justice cycle, and keep our community safer.



Shane Rattenbury

Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Corrections and Justice Health, Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, and Mental Health

As the Minister for Justice and Corrections, Shane Rattenbury has overseen a significant increase in funding for community justice services such as a dedicated Justice Housing Program, more funding to the Victims of Crime Commission, and the rollout of the first Justice Reinvestment family support service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Looking towards the future, the ACT Greens want to build on these and other measures, such as the expansion of the Drug and Alcohol Court, to prevent and reduce offending wherever possible.

Our recently announced Drug Law Reform package highlights the ACT Greens approach.

Recent changes to cannabis use laws, while supported, highlighted the complexity of these issues and the need for politicians to take more time listening to the experts. We need to ensure drug law reform responds to evidence about what works rather than relying on old approaches that cause harm. We need leaders from health,

the legal fraternity, law enforcement, First Nations peoples and substances users with lived experience to guide us.

We will establish a new and ongoing Ministerial Advisory Council for Drug Law Reform incorporating these sectors and people will be tasked with developing new, innovative and responsive legislation and practices to take us out of the past and towards a genuinely advanced system of harm minimisation and the treatment of drug use as a health issue.

Shane also currently serves as the Minister for Road Safety, and has worked consistently to reduce road trauma in the ACT, including through measures to protect vulnerable road users and the revamp of the Graduated Licencing Scheme, as well as partnerships with ACT Policing.

www.greens.org.au/act



Belco Party – in ACT Policing's corner

Belco” Bill Stefaniak

Candidate for Ginninderra , Leader of the Belco Party

The Belco Party is pleased and indeed honoured to be able to confirm our support for the AFP's five-point plan to support ACT police.

I am especially disappointed to see our numbers of active police are well below the national average, and my party has no problem getting that up to at least the national average or even more if that is warranted.

I have already publicly committed my party to increasing the maximum penalty for assaulting a police officer to 5 years. In my release (included after this op-ed),

I also flagged that if need be we would even look at a trial of mandatory minimum sentences if courts did not take the new offence seriously.

Also, whilst I was able to make a number of changes requested by the AFP to the Crimes Act in mid-2001, especially to changing the power to charge from a police officer having to have a reasonable belief that a crime had been committed to the simpler standard of only having to have a reasonable suspicion, I basically ran out of time to introduce guideline sentence and/or sentencing guidelines before we were replaced by the Stanhope government in November 2001. Another six months as AG would have sufficed!

If the Belco party has the balance of power after 17 October, one of our key demands to agree on voting into government whoever is able to form a government with our support will be that that government must accede to your most reasonable five points, as well as introducing without delay anti consorting laws, guideline judgements and/or other sensible sentencing legislation and indeed any other legislative changes police reasonably need to make their job of protecting the community easier.

Police are not blue punching bags, and there needs to be a serious deterrent imposed in any sentence handed down when a member is injured in an assault.

It never failed to annoy me when I was a prosecutor in the 1980s to see often weak penalties imposed for assaulting police

Further on sentencing, whilst the courts at least are a little bit more robust generally than they were in the 80s, there are often many instances of weak sentences still.

When I was AG from December 2000 until October 2001, I was able to tighten up the Bail Act to ensure that repeat offenders who were charged or put before the court for any further serious offences whilst on bail for earlier offences (serious offence was defined as anything carrying a penalty of over five years) would face an automatic presumption against bail except in exceptional circumstances

This effectively dropped the burglary rate – as it was intended to do – by 50% within six months. I was pleased to see the current government continue this law with some modifications. If NSW had a similar provision in their bail Act, Man Monis would not have been able to commit the Lindt cafe atrocity as he would have been locked up for the various offences he had continued to commit beforehand whilst on bail.

I would hope that my old Liberal colleagues will not have much of a problem with most of this.

My party realises that the AFP's requests come at a financial cost, but we regard them as “must haves”, not “can haves “. The Belco Party has already a number of plans to save money, make money, and defer or abandon unnecessary projects so that monies allocated can be better used - and where better to use some of that money than ensuring an adequately supported police force.

After all, the first duty of any government should be to ensure the safety of its citizens.



More Nurses, Firies, Paramedics, Police – Belco Party Promise

Belco Party candidate Angela Lount announced today that if elected, the Belco Party would guarantee to increase the total number of frontline responders including firefighters, nurses, police and paramedics. Whatever the number of staff is on October 17 2020 we will increase every year to the next election in 2024.

We will increase the numbers of frontline staff to the highest rate per capita in the nation.

These key first responders keep us alive and protected and we need to recognise their role and support them in whatever ways we can. Increasing the numbers of these vital personnel on the frontline is a promise I am honoured to make on behalf of the Belco Party” Ms Lount said “With the threats revealed with the current pandemic we have never

so badly needed more nurses to staff the hospitals and clinics.

“I speak to people in Belconnen everyday who do not feel safe in the street with the constant reports of bashings and bike violence. We need more police.

Fire is a year round threat in Canberra with winter house fires and summer bushfires part of our way of life. I give a big call out to our firies and tell them the Belco Party is here to support them.

To attract the best people from around the country into these roles we will offer the highest national average wages.

The Belco Party supports the public service and will work to provide the best resources and to achieve the best service outcomes for all Canberrans” said Ms Lount.

www.belcoparty.com.au

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