

PO Box 653

BELMONT WA 6984

PHONE: (08) 9277 1655

FACSIMILE: (08) 9277 1266

EMAIL: [WACNI@MSN.COM](mailto:wacni@msn.com)

WEB SITE: WWW.CNIWA.COM.AU

COUNCIL FOR THE NATIONAL INTEREST
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER – April 2013

Email address

If you have an email address and would like to send it to us, you will receive further Newsletters much more quickly and you will save us a lot of money on postage stationery. Just email wacni@msn.com with your name and we will record your email address.

WA Subsidizes other States

Giving a powerful address to a public forum, mounted by CNI on 16th April, 2013, Mr Christian Porter, the endorsed Liberal Candidate for the Federal Electorate of Pearce and a former Treasurer of Western Australia, demonstrated the extent to which Western Australia is subsidizing the other States and will continue to do so under the Gillard Government.

Mr Porter answered many questions from the floor and it is clear, from these, that the audience wanted something to be done in Canberra to give Western Australia a fairer go.

In this regard we wish Mr Porter success in his bid to enter the federal parliament.

Federal Election September 14, 2013?

CNI is non-party political. We receive no support from nor do we support any political party. We do believe however that Australia cannot afford the re-election of the Gillard Government, which, with its predecessor, the Rudd Government, has taken federal government debt level from around zero to approaching \$300bn. At the same time there has been an exponential increase in the federal bureaucracy. Under the tenure of Mr Rudd and now Ms Gillard, Australia is heading for a dose of the Eurozone disease, symptoms of which are excessive and unaffordable government bureaucracy, excessive and unaffordable welfare programmes leading to excessive and unaffordable government debt. Once caught, the disease brings long term debilitation.

With a view to countering this trend, CNI Central Policy Discussion Group has prepared a list of policy suggestions addressed to the Federal/Liberal National Coalition in Opposition urging them to adopt these policies as they campaign for election to government. The over-riding objective of these policy proposals is to build a more inclusive Australia with special emphasis on the family, incentives for welfare recipients to become self supporting, support for Agriculture and food security, support for business, particularly small business, rebuilding manufacturing industry, rebuilding the Federation, scrapping tax on CO2 and related measures and electoral reform.

These detailed policy suggestions are available from CNI office on request.

Recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution

CNI finds it disturbing that the premier of Western Australia, Hon Colin Barnett, is reported as saying “WE support constitutional recognition of local government so long as it is recognized as a function of the State and does not create new powers for the Commonwealth, which we believe would lead to further duplication of legislation.” *The West Australian April 29, 2013.*

We find this disturbing as Mr Barnett has previously strongly opposed ‘constitutional recognition’. Opposition leader, Mr Abbott has also offered in principle support for recognition. CNI is strongly

opposed to recognition as we believe that no matter what caveats are built into safeguard State powers, future centralist governments in Canberra, aided by similarly leaning High Court Judges, will find ways to subvert these powers just as has happened with the Australian Constitution. Should this happen, these same centralist governments in our view, will by-pass state governments in the management of the functions of State Government. This will weaken the role of state government strengthen the role of local government and the powers of federal government and eventually, render state governments as irrelevant and largely ceremonial.

Electoral Matters

CNI is continuing to lobby for the Electoral Act to be amended to provide for identification of voters at the polling booth on Election Day. The Rudd/Gillard governments have opposed this. It is of considerable concern that the Gillard Government has reappointed Commissioner Ed Killesteyn as head of the Australian Electoral Commission for a further five year term although his current term does not expire until January, 2014 long after the federal election expected for September 14 this year. Some politicians believe that the AEC and the Gillard government “had an overly comfortable relationship” under the stewardship of Mr Killesteyn. It seems improper to make this appointment at this early date and thus deny the incoming government after September, 14, no matter who it is, the right to appoint a person of that government’s choice.

The Family Really Does Matter

Since its establishment in Western Australia, CNI has been very supportive of the family as the basic unit of society over thousands of years with the cornerstone being marriage, the union of one man and one woman and the procreation of children. We argue that the traditional family should be promoted, supported, maintained and protected by government policy and government funded agencies. A Family Impact Statement (FIS) is necessary to accompany all legislation submitted to Cabinet to identify any adverse effects on the family and how these are to be ameliorated. The FIS should be a public document.

Readers, we believe, will be interested to know that the World Congress of Families will be held in Sydney 15-18 May, 2013. This is the first time this Congress, which will feature many high profile International and Australasian speakers, who are experts on the family, has been held in Australia. Both of the National Civic Council and the Australian Family Association, in Western Australia, are playing a major role in organizing and promoting the World Congress. For further information go to wcfsydney2013.org.au

Invitation

The CNI Central Policy Discussion Group usually meets 1st Wednesday of the month at 10.00 am for a cuppa and cake and a good chat about all kinds of policy issues. New members are most welcome. Why not get involved? Just let the office know of your interest.

Thought for today

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence.
Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent.
Genius will not; the world is full of educated derelicts.
Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.
The slogan “Press On” has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.
(*Author unknown*)