

10 February 2025

**Scamps introduces *Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill 2025***

Young people today are the first generation in modern history to be worse off than their parents. Today Dr Sophie Scamps will introduce a bill to turn that around.

Independent MP for Mackellar Dr Sophie Scamps will today table a Private Members Bill to establish a framework for collaborative, long term policymaking in Australia. The bill is based on the experience of Wales where a Wellbeing of Future Generations Act was introduced in 2015.

***The Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill 2025*** will ensure public bodies work together based on the principle that the needs of the present be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Dr Scamps, a former GP and emergency doctor, says this is the very reason she was compelled to enter politics.

“Like all parents I want to provide my children with the best opportunity to live a safe, happy and prosperous life,” Dr Scamps said.

“But due to repeated policy failures over decades our young people now face converging crises. We are leaving our kids a far harder world to flourish in than the one we inherited.

“Many of the crises we currently face have been decades in the making. The housing crisis, the environment and climate crises, the obesity and mental health epidemics, the normalisation of gambling harm, and growing intergenerational inequality. None of these problems have happened over night. Policy makers have known about them for decades and failed to respond effectively.

“Decade after decade, leaders and decision-makers have not acted to make a difference. Instead, repeated short-term, Band-Aid actions have been futile, or even made the situation worse.

“Over the past three years, I have witnessed firsthand the way that individual portfolios of the same government often work against each other. Portfolios, departments and public bodies should be working in concert with one another, rather than in competition.

“Australians want long-term solutions. They want politicians to think beyond their own re-election prospects every three years and put some serious effort into turning the ship around for future generations. If not now, when?”

The bill does 4 things:

1. Creates a legislative framework to ensure that intergenerational equity and wellbeing are considered and promoted in government and other public decision-making.
2. Imposes a positive duty on government and public bodies to take into account the long-term impacts of their decisions.
3. Establishes an independent, statutory Commissioner for Future Generations to make sure everything the Act promises, is achieved.

4. Starts a National Conversation on the Wellbeing of Future Generations. The Commissioner will lead a public consultation process – including a wide diversity of voices – to make Australians active co-creators of this new vision for Australia’s future.

This call for change has been backed by experts across the field, politicians across the aisle and the general Australian public.

A survey conducted by EveryGen found that 97% of Australians believe that current policies must consider the interests of future generations and 81% feel that Australian politicians focus too much on short-term decisions.<sup>1</sup>

Foundations for Tomorrow has also found that 71% of young Australians do not feel secure about their future.<sup>2</sup>

This Bill will be seconded in Parliament by the Liberal Member for Bass, Bridget Archer, and was guided by close consultation with the Foundations for Tomorrow organisation.

The legislation has been developed in close collaboration with the Foundations for Tomorrow organisation.

Co-Founder and Managing Director of Foundations for Tomorrow, Taylor Dee Hawkins, said the “Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill sets a vital new standard for policymaking in Australia.”

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For media inquiries and interviews with Dr Sophie Scamps MP please contact Nick Pedley: [media@sophiescamps.com.au](mailto:media@sophiescamps.com.au) - 0447 630 503

EDITORS’ NOTES

**Quote from Professor Patrick McGorry AO, Director - Orygen Youth Health:**

“Young people in Australia are facing growing mental health challenges. These are fuelled by intergenerational inequities such as housing insecurity, precarious employment, student debt, and a clouded future due to climate change and an alarming loss of a moral compass in the wider geopolitical world. Young people are being handed a raw deal and their needs have been seriously neglected by older generations, political leaders and the wider society. Yet it is precisely this emerging generation on whom the future of our society depends.

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill is crucial to addressing these systemic issues by embedding long-term thinking into policy decisions. By prioritising the wellbeing of young and future generations, we can create a society where mental health is protected, opportunities are accessible,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.foundationsfortomorrow.org/futuregenerationspolicyroadmap>

<sup>2</sup> <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6562bc3b0b80f547bdee287f/t/659f547f9a24f50d7ae447ae/1704940672864/Awareness%2Bto%2BAction%2BKey%2BFindings.pdf>

and no generation is left worse off than the one before. Orygen supports this Bill as a critical investment in the mental health and wellbeing of Australia's young people."

**Quotes from Taylor Dee Hawkins, Co-Founder & Managing Director - Foundations for Tomorrow**

"The Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill sets a vital new standard for policymaking in Australia and represents a stride towards the systemic changes needed to deliver for current and future generations"

"Foundations for Tomorrow is grateful for Dr Scamp's leadership; her approach to fostering a truly multi-partisan, collaborative and intergenerational approach to this work reflects the leadership that we need to see in Australian politics, and we are pleased to have supported the development of this future-defining reform for Australia"

"If you believe that Australia's future should not be an afterthought or a 'tick and flick' exercise, but a central responsibility of our nation's leaders, then this Bill is for you".

**Quotes from Sophie Lewis, ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment**

"This Bill takes us a step closer to a healthy, prosperous, and sustainable future for all Australians. Currently, there is little consideration of the long-term impact of political decisions. This Bill means that policymakers must consider the needs of current and future Australia and not damage future possibilities of wellbeing for Australian.

"I'm delighted to see this progress in considering fairness for all Australians, including our future generations to come. As a climate scientist and a parent of two very young Australians, I welcome this legislation that priorities everyone's future."

**Quotes from Anajali Sharma – Climate Activist, Founder of the *Duty of Care* Campaign**

"The world that we, as young people, will inherit will be greatly influenced by the decisions made in parliament today. It is crucial that these decisions prioritise our wellbeing and establish the groundwork for a future where we, like past generations, can thrive. This is the least that young people deserve, as the generation tasked with carrying forward a world earmarked by a multiplicity of crises, from climate, to housing, to cost of living."

**Quotes from Adjunct Professor Terry Slevin – CEO of the Public Health Association Australia**

"Dr Scamps' bill could play a major role in protecting young people now from the scourge of many forms of chronic disease long into the future, by obliging governments to break the short-term policy cycle and make much better long term health policy decisions. That's got to be worth supporting."