

Representing

Kooyong

Dr Monique Ryan MP



DR MONIQUE
RYAN
KOOYONG'S INDEPENDENT



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Hello Kooyong!

I'm Dr Monique Ryan. In 2022 I was elected as your Federal Member of Parliament. Before that, I was Head of the Department of Neurology at the Royal Children's Hospital and a medical researcher.

I've lived in Kooyong most of my life, as has my husband. We've been fortunate to raise and educate our three children here. We want them—and our grandchildren—to have the same opportunities we've had.

I left a job I loved to stand for parliament because I felt our government no longer represented us. I could see that the major political parties weren't acting in an evidence-based way on climate change—the greatest threat to our economic and social security. I was frustrated by the lack of transparency and integrity in government spending. I could see that young Australians would, in decades to come, have to bear the burden of the cost-of-living crisis, critical housing shortages, and our failure to spend wisely and well on health, education, aged care, and disability.

The major parties have let Australia down with their failure to develop and enact long-term, evidence-based policies on the things which matter to all of us. We deserve better.

As an independent, I can listen to my community and to the experts. I can act on what you care about. I'm not told what to do by a party, by a faction, by vested interests, or by lobby groups. I'm accountable only to you.

This booklet lays out what I've done as your MP, and how I will represent our community in the 48th Parliament. It is an absolute privilege to represent you at this crucial time for our country.

Dr Monique Ryan MP

Independent Member for Kooyong

Australia needs more housing

Australians are dealing with a housing crisis three decades in the making.

Rising interest rates, cost-of-living pressures, soaring building costs, and a growing housing shortfall have led to decreasing home ownership and a critical shortage of rentals. Housing prices and mortgage payments are at record highs relative to income. Young people, low income earners, and older single women are facing housing stress and—increasingly—homelessness. Home ownership is now beyond most first home buyers unless they can rely on the bank of Mum and Dad.

We urgently need more housing. The next generation of Australians should be able to afford to live in well-designed, sustainable homes close to family and their workplaces.

Every policy lever needs to be pulled on the housing crisis.

As an independent, I'll push for federal involvement to ensure new housing projects are properly funded, developed with community consultation, and designed with quality and sustainability as a priority.



I'll support:

- Sensitive, evidence-based tax reform to improve housing affordability and remove disincentives to downsizing.
- Help for first home buyers: when assessing borrowing capacity, banks should focus on capacity to repay loans. Economists and banks agree that income-contingent HECS debts are different from other forms of debt.
- Significantly increasing the scale of the Housing Australia Future Fund, Help to Buy, and Build to Rent schemes, to rapidly expand housing stock for sale and rental.
- Evidence-based policies to discourage property speculation, empty homes, and land banking.
- Investment in public and social housing, to reduce homelessness and lessen pressure on the private rental market.
- Increases in Commonwealth Rental Assistance to help the most vulnerable Australians.

All three levels of government—local, state, and federal—must work together to deliver solutions to the national housing crisis.

Housing in Kooyong

Housing development in Kooyong must prioritise community consultation, thoughtful planning and design, quality construction, and neighbourhood character, along with affordability and liveability.

In the last three years I've worked with local and state governments, residents, and community groups, to advocate for a balanced approach to housing densification in our suburbs.

Kooyong Activity Centres

Hundreds of constituents have told me of their concerns about the Victorian government's proposal for 'Activity Centres' in Kooyong, which was conceived without adequate community consultation. This has caused confusion and anxiety. Significant concerns include the potential impact of large-scale developments on local infrastructure and amenity—including schools, roads, traffic, sewerage, and green space. Many in the community are also worried about the impact on heritage and neighbourhood character.

In response to the feedback I've received, I have hosted community forums in Kew and Malvern with council representatives, local groups, and planning and housing experts. I've met repeatedly with the State Minister for Planning and the Federal Minister for Housing, and I've amplified Kooyong's concerns in parliament. While Kooyong does need more housing, I'll always advocate for sensitive, quality developments which maintain neighbourhood character. I do not support 20 storey towers in Kooyong.



Social and Affordable Housing in Kew

In a healthy society, essential workers like nurses, teachers, and police officers can live close to where they work. That's why I've advocated for affordable housing—with preservation of green spaces and active transport pathways—in the development of the VicRoads site in Kew.

I'll continue to hold the federal and state governments to account on the housing crisis. I'll push them to work with local government and community to develop transparent, long-term, evidence-based policies for well-designed and affordable housing in our suburbs.

THE ~~AGE~~ AGE

Calls for social housing to be built on prized land in the middle of Kew

By Clay Lucas

24 March, 2024

HECS and education reform

Recent increases in Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) fees, and their indexation, have made tertiary education too burdensome.

The Morrison Job-Ready Graduates scheme doubled the price of many degrees to \$50,000 or more. As a result, fewer young people are starting university. Graduates are struggling to get home loans—they're starting families later. Australia's birth rate is at an all time low.

In the last five years, inflation and indexation have meant that many graduates' debts increased faster than they could be paid off. Some fear they never will.

You reached out to me to act on HECS – so I did. I've advocated strongly for HECS reform and launched Australia's largest ever political petition. More than 288,000 people signed it, telling the government they want a fairer HECS system.

In response to the pressure we created, the government changed HECS indexation. It's a great start—but there's more to do.

I'll keep working to make degrees more affordable. I'll push for supported placements for all students in the health and care sectors, for fairer accounting of HECS payments, and to ensure that HECS debts don't stop first home buyers from getting loans. Tertiary education should set young people up for life—not for a life of debt.

I listen to the community. I act. Together, we get results.



EARLY 2023

MAY 2023

APRIL 2024

MAY 2024

NOV 2024

MAY 2025

- Concerned community members alerted me to their unfair HECS debt increases

- I met with the Education Minister, spoke up in the media, and made HECS debts a live issue

- More than 288,000 people signed my petition, making it one of the largest in Australian history

- Facing unprecedented pressure, the government wiped \$3 billion in student debt and made indexation fairer

- Government promised more changes to HECS if re-elected

- I'll continue to advocate for cheaper degrees, fairer accounting of HECS payments, and more financial support for students

Angus, Surrey Hills



It's quite a scary thing, the concept of not being able to have the same life that my parents had when they had just finished uni. It felt like an impossible goal to achieve. Where they were able to buy a house among other things, now I will have an ever increasing HECS debt weighing me down.

Monique's work on HECS really pressured the government to take action on the issue. Her petition to make the HECS system fairer is what democracy is meant to look like. It's meant to be about issues that matter to members of the community. Signing it made me feel like my voice is strengthening the cause and has helped make a tertiary education more accessible. This has made young people's lives easier during a cost of living crisis and housing crisis.

Selina, Balwyn North

I was 18 years old when I decided to take on significant debt to pursue my education. My studies were incredibly rewarding, but I did not fully understand the financial implications. I was unaware of the potential burden of fluctuating indexation rates and how this debt could affect my ability to secure a home loan. Now, as I consider upskilling through postgraduate study, I worry that increasing my HECS debt will delay milestones such as buying a home and starting a family.

In 2023, I was dismayed to learn my HECS debt was set to increase by 7.1 per cent. It was growing faster than I could repay it, while the costs of rent, groceries, utilities and healthcare continued to rise. Dr Monique Ryan's petition for fairer indexation addressed this pressing issue faced by many young Australians. Signing the petition made me feel heard and demonstrated the ability of an independent member to achieve meaningful change through community support.

Cheaper medicines

I'm committed to Australians receiving the best healthcare possible, and I've worked constructively and pragmatically with the government on health policy.

I often hear about constituents' difficulties with the cost of medicines. Last year, more than 50% of Australians put off medical or dental treatment due to its cost.

In 2023, I asked the government to reconsider a 2018 recommendation to allow 12 month prescriptions for 60 days at a time for Australians on stable medication doses. This would decrease GP visits and halve the cost of some medicines. The recommendation was supported by consumer advocates, the AMA, and other peak bodies, but shelved by the Morrison Government after lobbying from pharmacy groups.

The Albanese Government adopted that recommendation. **More than 10 million 60-day scripts have now been dispensed for over 300 medicines. I also supported legislated cuts to the price of medications, saving Australians more than \$500 million. This has also freed up GPs to see patients instead of spending time on repeat prescriptions.**

I'm committed to evidence-based, best practice healthcare. I worked for decades in the public health system, and bring experience and insight to identifying and removing inefficiencies and waste in government. In the next parliamentary term, I'll continue to work on improved access to mental health and dental care.

*news*GP

**'It's a no-brainer':
Prominent backing grows
for extended dispensing**

By Anastasia Tsirtsakis

10 March, 2023

 **AMA**

**AMA urges immediate
action to save patients on
PBS medicines**

9 March, 2023

The Sydney Morning Herald

**Double pharmacy scripts
to 60 days' supply to save
Medicare millions: Doctors**

By Natassia Chrysanthos

27 March, 2023

Consumer protections

One of the best parts of being an independent is being able to respond when your community asks for help. In response to constituents' feedback, I've consistently advocated for better consumer protections in a number of areas.

Addressing the supermarket duopoly

Many of you have told me that, in a cost-of-living crisis, recent increases in grocery prices have felt excessive. I've supported independent reviews of the industry, advocated for greater transparency around supermarket pricing, and pushed for a mandatory Food and Grocery Code of Conduct.

Taking on the major airlines

I've also advocated for the government to hold Qantas and Virgin to account for actions like slot hoarding and selling seats on cancelled flights. We now have a dedicated aviation ombudsman and a passenger Chart of Rights, to ensure faster refunds and complaint resolution. I'll continue to push for a mandatory compensation scheme for those affected by delayed and cancelled flights—as is in place in the EU, Canada, and the US.

Combatting scams

Together with the Consumer Action Law Centre, I've worked for better legal protections for scams victims. I founded the Parliamentary Friends of Scams Protection and pushed for an improved national Scams Protection Framework, including an amendment to improve its reimbursement model.

**The
Guardian**

At last, charter of rights for Australian airline passengers - but where's the compensation for delay?

By Monique Ryan

23 December, 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Qantas should compensate passengers for delayed and cancelled flights

By Monique Ryan

15 September, 2023



Energy transition and investor certainty

We need cheap, clean, reliable energy in the 2020s and 2030s, to be sure we can keep the lights on, power industry, and strengthen our economy, while reducing our carbon emissions.

Australians face a cost-of-living crisis and climate emergency. Our polluting coal-fired power stations are outdated and unreliable. Gas accounts for a very small proportion of our energy mix—but a large part of its cost.

Renewable power is clean, safe, powerful, reliable—and already here. Today, more than 40% of our electricity comes from solar, wind and hydro. Our renewables capacity has doubled in the last six years; it'll double again by 2030. The experts tell us that large-scale wind and solar, backed by batteries and hydro, can provide reliable 24/7 energy.

Our natural advantages—unlimited solar and wind power, abundant land, port access, resource industry expertise, and a stable trade and investment framework—mean we're uniquely well placed to benefit from the net zero transition.

Our economic future is in clean commodities like green iron and steel, low-emissions fuels, fertiliser, and energy exports. Building more renewables will create jobs in regions of economic change.

As a member of the House Select Committee on Nuclear Energy, I've looked at the evidence and listened to the experts. Nuclear might have been an answer for Australia three decades ago—but it's not the answer now. It would take at least two

decades to come online. And by then, we'll have almost 100% renewable energy. The risk of cost and timeline blowouts, and unresolved questions regarding waste disposal, is too high. The Liberals' nuclear policy in the lead up to the 2025 Federal Election was not genuine—it was an attempt to extend the life of coal and gas, and limit investment in renewables.

Economists, scientists, business and industry experts agree: committing to the net zero transition via renewables is the best way to guarantee the next generation reliable, clean energy, a strong economy, and a healthy future.

The
Guardian

The Coalition's nuclear fantasy serves short-term political objectives – and its fossil fuel backers

By Peter Lewis

2 July, 2024

THE AUSTRALIAN 🇦🇺

Solar capacity leaves coal in shade

By Colin Packham

25 September, 2024

Tax reform

Economists and business leaders agree that our tax system needs reform to lift productivity, ensure we can fund essential social services and infrastructure, and reduce generational inequality.

The major parties lack the vision and courage to address the shortcomings of our tax system. They care more about their own political fortunes than the country's best interests—more about the next election than the next generation.

Evidence-based, sensitive tax reform will future-proof our economy while providing certainty to older Australians.

It should:

- Decrease our dependence on income tax to increase workforce participation and the long-term sustainability of our economy.
- Ensure fair returns for our fossil fuel and mineral resources, and support the transition to a net zero economy.
- Increase housing affordability and supply.
- Create incentives for investment and innovation, to increase productivity and economic growth.

As the cost-of-living crisis worsened in 2022, I consulted with constituents and economists, and called on the government to modify its planned Stage 3 tax cuts. Along with leading economists, I firmly believed that they were inflationary,

and would not help those most in need of support. Other crossbenchers joined me in pushing the government to have the courage to act. It worked. In 2024, the government amended the Stage 3 tax cuts to provide much-needed cost-of-living relief to income earners in all tax brackets, while simultaneously bringing down inflation.

The Sydney Morning Herald

Crossbenchers urge Labor to scrap stage three tax cuts

By Anthony Galloway

28 August, 2022

With a generation of young Australians losing hope of ever owning their own home, we have to stop tinkering around the edges of tax reform—we must plan for the long term.



Ensuring multinationals pay fair taxes

The petroleum resources rent tax (PRRT)—our major federal tax on offshore oil and gas projects—sells us short.

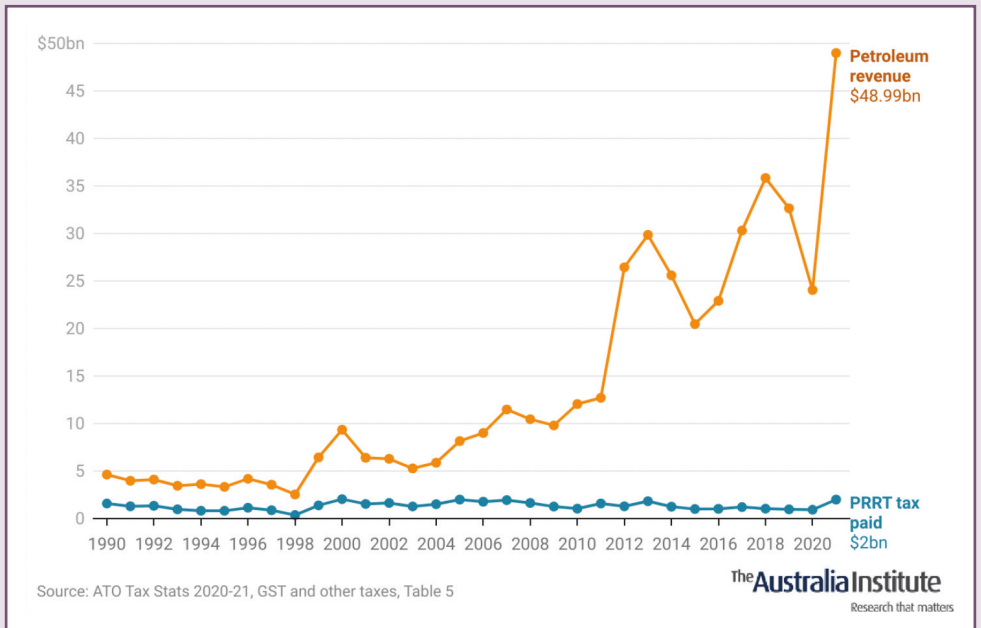
If we taxed oil and gas producers as effectively as Norway, we'd make \$66 billion more each year; that's three times the cost of the Stage 3 tax cuts.

The government collects more from HECS and from taxing beer than from its superprofits tax on oil and gas. While we're facing domestic gas shortages and price hikes, more than 80% of our gas is exported by multinationals.

Successive Liberal and Labor governments have evaded their responsibilities to the economy and to the next generation.

If we reform the PRRT to make it a true windfall profits tax—with excess profits triggering a guaranteed rate of return—we can afford to properly fund health and aged care, dental care, and education.

Fig 1. Growth in assessable petroleum revenue vs PRRT revenue



Establishment of a National Anti-Corruption Commission

The need for a national watchdog for corrupt behaviour by public servants and politicians was a major electoral issue at the 2022 Federal Election.

Neither major party had a plan for a national anti-corruption commission before independents made it a key issue in 2022.

Establishment of the NACC was front and centre of my campaign in 2022.

The power of community support for integrity, transparency, and accountability in government—in Kooyong, and many other electorates around Australia—directly led to the establishment of the NACC.



In its first year of operation, it received more than 3,000 referrals and conducted 47 corruption investigations. Five have already gone on to court proceedings, and two have resulted in convictions.

There is clearly more work to be done to ensure the NACC operates to the standards Australians expect, to ensure it is a foundational institution advancing government integrity.



National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022

No. 88, 2022

Compilation No. 9

Compilation date: 24 November 2024

Includes amendments: Act No. 93, 2024

We need:

- Greater transparency around the NACC's activities.
- Public hearings whenever they are clearly in the public interest.
- An independent Whistleblower Protection Authority.
- Better funding of the Australian National Audit Office's independent scrutiny of the NACC and other government bodies.

Integrity and transparency in the 47th Parliament

Democracy is fragile, and people's faith in it is easily corroded. Globally, trust in government is at an all-time low.

Australians increasingly believe that our political system works for those who work within it and for those with vested interests.



In 2022 and 2025, Australia elected the largest crossbench in our history because electorates like Kooyong wanted greater transparency and integrity in government.

In the 47th Parliament, I worked with the government and my crossbench colleagues to improve the National Anti-Corruption Commission legislation. I seconded Dr Helen Haines' private member's bill to stop pork-barrelling. I've supported other crossbench colleagues' bills for meaningful and fair reform of electoral donations, preventing jobs for mates, and better whistleblower protections. All were developed in consultation with integrity bodies and legal experts. None were accepted for further debate by the Albanese Government.

The major parties don't want to engage with meaningful political reform. Only the independent crossbench will improve integrity and transparency, and restore trust in our government. We'll work together—effectively and pragmatically—on the integrity issues which matter to our electorates.

It's extraordinary that it's legal to lie in political advertising in this country. Some politicians are deliberately choosing to mislead voters. Legislation for truth in political advertising should be an immediate focus of the next parliament.

THE  AGE

Unrivalled access for new class of lobbyists

By David Crowe

10 July, 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Integrity a Long Game for the Teals

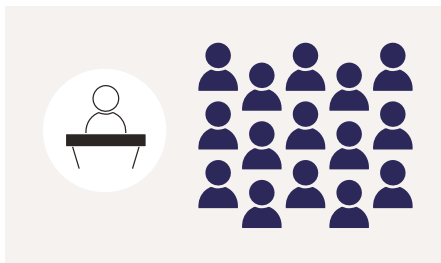
By Ronald Mizen

22 December, 2023

Clean Up Politics Act

Lobbying is a legitimate contribution to the democratic process, but it should be transparent.

The Federal Lobbying Code of Conduct applies to only 20% of the lobbyists who roam the corridors of Parliament House—there are 15 lobbyists for every Member and Senator.



We don't know who they meet, or how they affect public policy. Without that knowledge and transparency, Australians doubt the independence and merit of government decisions.

The 'revolving door' between parliament and lucrative private sector jobs is corrosive of trust. Ministers and senior public servants shouldn't use insider knowledge for personal gain after leaving public office, or make decisions prior to leaving government which could help their employer-to-be.

The major parties don't want to act on this issue. Only the crossbench will improve transparency and integrity, and restore trust in government.

I've put my Clean Up Politics private member's bill—the Lobbying (Improving Government Honesty and Trust) Bill—before parliament twice. It will remain a major focus for me in the 48th Parliament.



It will:

- Create a publicly-accessible register for all lobbyists actively engaging with federal parliamentarians, showing who they've met with, where, and why.
- Publish ministers' diaries online, so we know who they've met with.
- Ban ministers and senior public servants from working as lobbyists in the area where they've worked in government for three years after they leave parliament.

Climate legislation and emissions targets

Climate pollution from burning fossil fuels is overheating our planet and causing more frequent extreme weather events.

Australia has committed to net zero emissions by 2050, but the Albanese Government keeps approving new coal and gas mines—even though there are already more than 120 projects in the pipeline. The Liberals' failed nuclear policy is a plan for extending our dependence on failing coal plants and expensive gas.

Industry and business have led the way on climate adaptation and amelioration in Australia. They've told us they need certainty regarding climate targets to support investor confidence in the net zero transition.

In the last term of parliament I successfully moved an amendment to the Climate Change Act, which established our first ever legislated emissions target. I also supported legislation limiting carbon pollution and creating new jobs in green industries. There's much more to do.

In this term of parliament I will:

- Advocate for real emissions reduction of at least 75% by 2035.
- Oppose new fossil fuel developments in Australia.
- Push for accurate measurement and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from industry and large businesses in Australia.
- Stand up for transparency and integrity in green financing from federal grants and schemes.

THE **NEW DAILY**

Monique Ryan: This is what Labor's Future Made in Australia plan misses

By Monique Ryan

23 May, 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

'No going back to the climate wars', business warns Coalition

By Phillip Coorey

10 June, 2024

Environmental protections

Climate change and environmental protections remain first line priorities for me as Kooyong's Independent.

Only a strong and independent crossbench is capable of holding the major parties accountable for their inaction on environmental protection, species conservation, and biodiversity loss.

Native forest logging

Logging of Victoria's native forests was banned in 2023, but large areas are still being cleared. I successfully amended legislation on illegal logging in 2024. I'll continue to advocate for a federal ban on logging of native forests—to reduce carbon emissions, conserve water, and protect endangered species.

Seismic blasting

Seismic blasting for fossil fuel exploration deafens or kills marine life and damages our fishing industry. We don't need new



offshore gas projects. I led a campaign against seismic blasting and, with Bridget Archer MP, presented a private member's bill to stop seismic blasting of our oceans.

Clean air and water

As a doctor, I know that we can't take clean air and water for granted. I hosted

100 NEWS

Teal MP introduces bill to abolish seismic testing permits, with backing from Liberal member

By Olivia Sanders

19 November, 2024

more than 100 doctors and parents in parliament to protest the government's subsidies of the Middle Arm gas precinct. I'll continue to campaign against new fossil fuel developments which threaten our air and water, in addition to their massive contribution to global carbon emissions.

Electrification of homes and small businesses

Solar is the cheapest form of electricity: climate solutions are cost-of-living solutions.

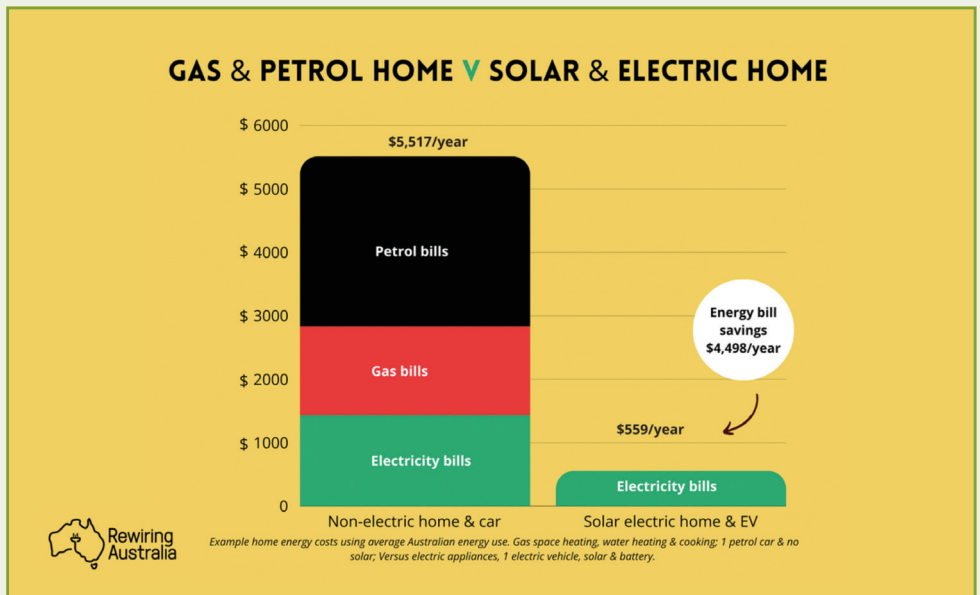
Home electrification replaces inefficient emissions-intensive appliances with electric alternatives. Electrifying our homes means we'll spend less on energy, bring down inflation, improve our health, and decrease carbon emissions.

The four million Australian households with rooftop solar are already saving at least \$1,500 per year on their electricity bills — more, if they have a battery to store energy for when the sun is not shining. However, many homeowners and renters can't afford to electrify. Government-backed finance and regulatory support for

homeowners, renters, and small businesses will help them save money, upgrade their appliances, and improve home energy efficiency. It will decrease demand on long distance electricity transmission, and reduce the land needed for solar and wind farms. No-one should be left behind in the energy transition.

Smart use of government subsidies will lower household bills more quickly, and save taxpayers billions of dollars in energy infrastructure in the future.

Fig 2. Gas & Petrol Home vs. Solar & Electric Home



Electrification of homes and small businesses

In the last three years I have:

- Successfully advocated for changes to the luxury car tax and for fuel efficiency standards, effectively increasing the availability and affordability of electric vehicles.
- Supported the government's \$1.3 billion program for home upgrades and residential electrification, and proposed tax incentives for landlords to upgrade rental properties.
- Worked with local councils and community groups in Kooyong—including Electrify Boroondara and Lighter Footprints—to support community uptake of household electrification.



In this term of parliament, I'll work for:

- More public financing to help electrify homes and small businesses. Federal subsidies for electrification could save Australians \$1.17 trillion by 2050—cutting home energy use by 64%—at a cost to the government of only \$5,000 per home.
- Stronger government support for active transport options—including the Box Hill-Hawthorn trail. More of us would cycle or walk to work or school if we felt safe to do so. Fewer cars on our roads means decreased emissions, less traffic congestion, cleaner air, and healthier Australians.
- Increased EV uptake. Nationally, range anxiety limits use of EVs in regional and rural settings, while renters often struggle to access charging facilities close to home. We need to allow distributors to install EV chargers on existing power poles, promote kerbside charging around the country, and subsidise public EV charging stations on highways and in rural settings.

Health

I worked for three decades in our public hospitals as a paediatric neurologist, researcher, and administrator. Prioritising access to general practice and mental health care will help all Australians live healthier lives.

Since 2022, I've represented our community, and amplified your voices—and those of patient groups, clinicians, and industry—on a wide range of healthcare issues:

- I've pushed for Medicare reform, to shift the focus from incentivising high patient turnover to encouraging GPs to prioritise quality preventive care—to keep people healthy, not just see them when they're sick.
- I've advocated for better funded allied health services, including psychology. We don't put a quota on GP visits: we shouldn't ration mental health care.
- I'm Deputy Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Health, Aged Care and Disability.
- Australians deserve access to new treatments as they're developed, and shouldn't have to cope with medication shortages. Our systems for approving, funding, and supplying medications, vaccines, and new technologies are too slow and opaque.
- Medical research funding in Australia is inadequate. Our world-leading researchers and biotech companies could contribute more to our economy and our health if given better regulatory and financial support.

Issues on which I'll focus during this term of Parliament include:

- Better primary healthcare for all Australians, including mental health care.
- More dental coverage through Medicare.
- Reform of the private health sector to improve efficiency and decrease fragmentation of care.



Disability care and the NDIS

4.4 million Australians live with disability. 15% of them are on the National Disability Insurance Scheme. All Australians deserve best practice care and support.

I have three decades of practical experience in the disability sector.

The NDIS is a vital part of disability care in Australia, but it has expanded too quickly, while state-based services have collapsed.

In 2024 the government legislated significant reforms to the NDIS, including changes to foundational (early intervention) supports. I worked extensively with constituents and experts from the disability and legal sectors on that legislation. I met repeatedly with the Minister, Department, and NDIA. Together we identified numerous areas where the legislation could be improved. I was the only MP to amend the legislation in the House of Representatives.



There are still concerns about how the recent changes will affect NDIS recipients. I'll continue to work with the disability community to advocate on its behalf, and to work with the government, the NDIA, and other parts of our health system, to ensure quality care for all Australians with disability.

DR MONIQUE
RYAN
KOoyong's INDEPENDENT

Dr Monique Ryan improves NDIS Bill with four successful changes

05 June 2024

Gender equity

Gender equity makes communities fairer, safer, and healthier. I look at every piece of legislation and policy to identify opportunities to improve women’s health, economic participation, and safety.

Since I entered Parliament, I have:

- Successfully pushed for superannuation payments on paid parental leave.
- Secured a Senate enquiry into the Respect at Work legislation which supported my amendment to better address legal cost issues for sexual violence survivors; the amended legislation passed in 2024.
- Successfully pushed for appointment of a national student ombudsman to ensure safety of women on university campuses.
- Repeatedly drawn the government’s attention to deficiencies in reproductive and menopause healthcare for women in Australia.
- Supported legislation extending access to early childhood education and childcare.
- Successfully advocated for more funding for family violence and women’s legal services.

000 NEWS

Government urged to use superannuation tax concession changes to expand Paid Parental Leave scheme

By Stephanie Borys

1 March, 2023

Crikey.

Rushing necessary law reform will create legal cost issues for sexual violence survivors

By Michael Bradley

7 November, 2022

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Year of reckoning: how sexual assault caught up with Australia’s universities

By Julie Hare

27 October, 2023

“

“In recent months the federal government has invested \$4 billion into preventing violence against women and another \$4 billion into legal services. It’s a good start, but it’s just a start. We still need a significant uplift in frontline services to support girls and women fleeing domestic violence. The first step in that process has to be housing support. Last night in Australia 7½ thousand women and children were couch surfing, and 2½ thousand slept in their cars or slept rough. We know that almost half the women and girls who are seeking homelessness assistance do so because of family and domestic violence.”

– Dr Monique Ryan,

Parliamentary speech, 27 November 2024.

Immigration and asylum seekers

Australia is a wonderful country. It's no surprise that many people want to come and live here.

Right now, we have a shortage of workers. To grow a better Australia—to build our homes and business, and support our engineering, technology, education, and care sectors—we need evidence-based policies providing clarity and transparency around temporary and permanent migration, as well as a long-term plan to educate and train our own skilled workforces.

Neither the Albanese Government nor the Coalition has presented a coherent, evidence-based vision for immigration to Australia. Instead, arbitrary policies announced on the run for political gain have damaged our economic growth, higher education system, international reputation, and social cohesion.

The major parties are engaging in a race to the bottom, blaming migrants for their policy and planning failures. Immigration did not cause a housing crisis three decades in the making—that was poor government.

We need long-term, evidence-based immigration policy. We have to balance the economic, social, and cultural benefits of immigration with the challenges posed by population growth, especially housing supply, transport, education, infrastructure needs, and environmental protection.

Having clearly-defined, realistic, sustainable, and transparent immigration policies doesn't have to erode our humanity. I've consistently voted against the Albanese Government's punitive laws criminalising asylum seekers and punishing those seeking refuge in this country—laws which contravene our human rights obligations and the Australian spirit of compassion.

Australia will spend over half a billion dollars in 2024-2025 to detain fewer than 100 people on Nauru. I'll continue to work to end offshore detention, to grant work and study rights to people seeking asylum, and to treat them and their children generously and inclusively.



Community events and engagement

In the last three years I've hosted more than 30 community town halls and meetings to listen to the people of Kooyong.

We've met and talked about climate and the environment, aged care, disability, housing, consumer protections, and the cost of living. It's a key priority for me, as your local member, to provide information and expert advice about issues that are important to you. As an independent, my contract with our community is that I will consult, listen, and act on your behalf on the things you care about.



Q&A Town Hall with Senator David Pocock



Housing Forum



Climate Duty of Care Town Hall with Anjali Sharma and Zoe Daniel



Q&A Town Hall with Senator Jacqui Lambie



Cost of Living Town Hall



Social Media and Young People Town Hall



Community Meeting on housing in Kooyong

Supporting our community

One of the most important aspects of my role as a Member of Parliament is directly serving the community. It's my favourite part of the job.

My Electorate Office assists hundreds of Kooyong constituents every year with accessing government services. We are very proud to have helped so many individuals and families receive the support and care they need and deserve.

Where we can help:

- Aged care
- Services Australia (Centrelink), including income support, aged pensions, child care subsidy
- Australian Taxation Office (ATO)
- The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- Australian visas and passports
- Federal grants and support schemes
- Advocacy on specific issues on behalf of constituents to the federal government.

Amir, former constituent



In 2022, I needed to travel internationally to compete in the Blind Football Championships as captain of the Australian blind soccer team. Monique's office and their advocacy helped me gain my citizenship faster and represent Australia overseas.

Monique and her office staff members have been very open. When there is an issue in the community, we can easily raise it within the office, and it will get attention. It doesn't go missing. Before Monique was elected, I wasn't able to come and sit in this office and have a conversation with my representative. It's quite remarkable to see the door is always open at Dr Monique Ryan's office.

Cam, Nevermind Bar Manager, Hawthorn

Mon has been a great supporter, not only for us at Nevermind, but for local live music. Her office supported us in receiving a federal grant opportunity, Revive Live, which will go 100% towards artist performance fees. Now we can get a whole lot more gigs happening at Nevermind and it's putting more emerging artists in front of an audience. That support has added significantly to the vibrancy of the local community.



Supporting our community

In Kooyong, we have hundreds of community groups doing incredible work. I believe that they should be given an equal opportunity to apply for federal assistance.

I stand for competitive, open, and transparent grant programs. My team regularly assists local businesses and organisations with their community grant applications. We have supported groups including kindergartens, sports clubs, community centres, scout groups, and not-for-profit organisations in successful applications for funding.

It has been fantastic meeting so many of you over the past three years. Whether it's at one of my town hall meetings, a Pop-Up Office out on the streets of Kooyong, community events, or through your emails and phone calls — I'm always keen to hear about what matters to you and how I can help you and your family.

Since May 2022, my office and I have:



Assisted with
10,179
constituent matters



Responded to
27,600
constituent emails



Held 1:1 meetings with
243
constituents



Hosted
30
town hall meetings
& community forums



Held
103
Pop-up Offices in
the community



Written
368
letters to Ministers and
other representatives
on behalf of
constituents



Made
356
speeches in
parliament



Assisted
86
Kooyong businesses
and organisations
with successful
Commonwealth
grant applications

Voting record

It's a privilege to represent the people of Kooyong. As an independent, I look at every piece of legislation, and work with all parliamentary colleagues to get the best outcomes for Kooyong.

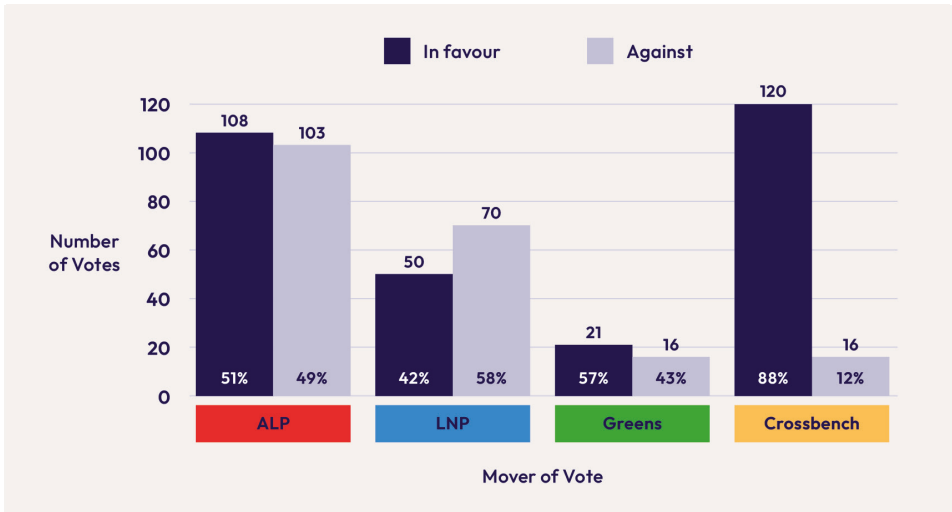
I answer only to my constituents—not to a party, lobby groups, or outside interests. For an independent, every vote is a conscience vote.

In the last Parliament, the government has passed 326 bills. I've supported good laws and I've opposed legislation I've disagreed with—regardless of who proposed it.

As of November 2024, I have participated in 504 votes or “divisions” in the 47th Parliament, and I'm proud of my voting record.

For example, I have voted:

- With **Independents** on climate and integrity
- With the **Opposition** on industrial relations, small business support, superannuation, and financial accountability
- With the **Greens** on climate change, environmental protections, and integrity
- With the **Government** on human rights, housing, and tax cuts.



I support good policy and effective legislation in the public interest. To that end, I've proposed successful amendments to bills including those for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, climate change, anti-discrimination and human rights, overseas students, and illegal logging.



I'd love to hear from you.

I take my job as your federal representative seriously. If you have thoughts or concerns that you'd like to share with me, please contact my office. We'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Dr Monique Ryan MP

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This booklet was hand-delivered by volunteers and 100% funded by community donations.



Printed on 100% FSC recycled paper.