

SOCIALIST EQUALITY PARTY

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Press Release: Socialist Equality Party launches federal election campaign

The Socialist Equality Party is standing a team of Senate candidates in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria, and South Australia, to provide the working class with a genuine alternative to the parties of the corporate and financial elites: Labor, the Liberals and the Greens.

The SEP is addressing the critical issues confronting masses of people, which are being systematically suppressed in the official campaign by the major parties and the media. These include the Labor government's intimate involvement in the US war drive against China, preparations for the imposition of sweeping austerity measures by whichever party forms government after the elections, and an escalating assault on democratic rights, exemplified by the vast spying operation being conducted against the world's population by the US and its allies, including Australia.

Unlike the myriad single-issue and protest organisations fielding candidates in the elections, the SEP is not making futile appeals to the political establishment. Rather its campaign is based on the understanding that the capitalist profit system, in the midst of its deepest crisis since the 1930's, has nothing to offer workers and youth aside from mass unemployment, mounting social inequality, a turn to police state forms of rule, and the real danger of a global military conflagration.

The SEP's campaign is aimed at developing an independent political movement of workers and youth, in Australia, and throughout the Asia-Pacific region, against war, austerity, and the threat of dictatorship, on the basis of a socialist and internationalist perspective.

Over the past four months, the SEP has held dozens of meetings in working class areas across the country, and will hold several more during the course of the official election campaign. The SEP, which is the Australian section of the world Trotskyist movement, will also hold meetings in New Zealand and Sri Lanka in the coming weeks, a concrete expression of the uniquely international character of its campaign. Throughout the past months, statements from the SEP's candidates on the fundamental political, economic and social questions confronting the working class have been posted on the *World Socialist Web Site*, www.wsws.org, the most widely read socialist publication on the internet.

A list of the SEP's diverse team of ten candidates, photographs and brief biographies of each of them, are available at the SEP Campaign Site: <http://www.sep.org.au>.

For all inquiries, including requests for interviews with the SEP's candidates, and media appearances, email sep@sep.org.au or call (02) 8218 3222.