

# Vote 1 Socialist Alliance!

The Socialist Alliance is standing in the coming federal election to give you a real choice in the most important poll in years.

**Vote for us and you'll be saying you want to see radical, people-centred change.**

There needs to be a sharp U-turn away from the Howard government's policies and Kevin Rudd's "Lite" version of them.

Of course, a victory for Labor would be a huge boost. What a relief to see the back of the creepy gang that gave us Work Choices,

Australian support for the horrendous slaughter in Iraq, cynical manipulation of refugees and Indigenous communities, and frame-ups of innocent people under "anti-terrorism" laws!

## No blank cheque to ALP

But the last thing we need is to give a blank cheque to an ALP that stands shoulder to shoulder with the Coalition on the essentials.

The stronger the vote for the Socialist Alliance (and the Greens), the clearer the message that people don't want Labor in government to be a continuation of the Howard years.

The Socialist Alliance approach guarantees this, because it's based on the principle that the needs of people and our planet must come before corporate profit-making.

For starters, we aren't "economic conservatives". We believe that Lib-Lab economics — doing everything to keep business fat and happy — is the main barrier to solving the Australia's problems.

Our idea of tax reform is to fund the programs that would make poverty history in this country by increasing taxes on companies and the super-rich who have never had it so good.

## Tear up Work Choices

We believe that Work Choices really should be torn up, and that union organisers should be free to enter the workplace.

We say that the millions of workers who now have to face their boss alone need stronger, more democratic unions.

As global warming threatens us with absolute disaster we think that the idea of curing it with shonky carbon trading schemes is a joke.

We believe that Howard's Northern Territory Emergency Act actually isn't meant to protect Indigenous children.

Instead, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples really should control their own affairs and get a huge increase in funding for health, housing and education.

We think that work-for-the-dole laws aren't there to help people into useful work, but are a scam to hand business some cheap labour.

We're convinced that all special anti-terrorism legislation should be pulped right now — it threatens our democratic freedoms much more than it protects us from any imaginable terrorist attack.

We don't think Muslims in Australia are a threat at all.

But the Socialist Alliance is also different because we don't see our proposals just as ways to improve life for the vast majority.

## New kind of society

They are also steps along the road to a different kind of society — socially just, environmentally sustainable and democratically self-managed (see back page).

We're also sure that they represent the interests of the majority of Australians — the people who produce the wealth and keep the country running.

Lastly, a vote for Socialist



Alliance is different because it's a vote for people who don't think voting is enough.

Real improvements in our lives don't originate in Parliament House, but from "ordinary" people acting to defend their interests, from the social movements we build.

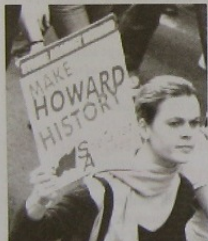
Why did lying rodent Howard produce (minor) improvements in Australia's refugee laws? Why did he drop Snowy Hydro privatisation? Why did he ditch the smelly name Work Choices?

Because the waves of protest had become too strong to ignore.

## Get active

It is important to make our vote as large as possible at this election. But it's more important to get active in the movements for progressive social change, and to join us to help build them.

Whether Howard or Rudd forms the next government we will need strong movements of resistance to continue to grow the agenda for social justice, workers' rights and environmental sustainability that the country sorely needs.



## OUR 8 KEY POINTS

- ✓ Tear up all of Work Choices
- ✓ Make poverty history, make health and education free
- ✓ It's an emergency — no nukes, renewable energy now
- ✓ Iraq and Afghanistan — troops out now
- ✓ Serious action on housing
- ✓ Indigenous land rights, not land grabs
- ✓ Scrap the anti-terror laws
- ✓ End all discrimination



**Sign up to Indigenous leader and Queensland Senate candidate Sam Watson's new vision for Australia!**

[www.socialist-alliance.org](http://www.socialist-alliance.org)



## Tear up all of Work Choices

Howard's Work Choices laws have brought in unprecedented restrictions on the ability of workers to defend their rights at work. Labor's Forward with Fairness policy gets rid of a few of their worst aspects while maintaining others, like savage restrictions on the right to strike and restricted right of entry for union organisers.

We would ditch all Howard's anti-union laws, dissolve the Australian Building and Construction Commission and ensure the legal right of workers to take action in defence of their interests.

We would set the minimum wage at 60% of average weekly earnings. We would restore to unions the right to freely enter workplaces to speak to workers — as in New Zealand.

## Make poverty history, free health and education

At least two million Australians live below the poverty line. This disgrace can only be reversed by decisive government action on health, education and jobs.

**Health.** We would reform the Medicare system to cover everyone, and include dental, eliminate waiting lists and phase out private health insurance as it became unnecessary.

**Welfare-to-work.** "Mutual obligation" creates a second-class workforce by forcing people into low-waged jobs. We would end "work for the dole" and rebuild the welfare system to guarantee a living wage for welfare recipients. If a country like Denmark can afford social security payments that are above the poverty line, Australia can too.

**Jobs.** To eliminate unemployment and create useful work we would reduce the working week, reverse privatisation and build a modern, democratically managed public sector dedicated to solving the country's key economic and environmental problems (like dying rural economies, inadequate community services and a run-down rail network).

**Education.** We believe education is a right not a privilege, yet private schools now get more federal funding than the entire public university sector. Federal funding should only go to public

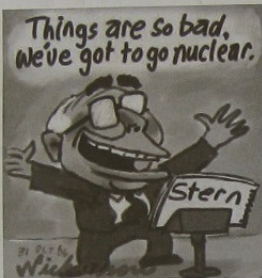
schools, universities and TAFE's and HECS should be abolished.

## It's an emergency — no nukes, renewable energy now

Funchecked, global warming and climate change will be an utter catastrophe for humanity. To confront this crisis we need an emergency mobilisation of society.

In Australia, the Socialist Alliance supports 60% emissions reductions by 2020 and 90% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

We would ratify the Kyoto treaty and lead the way in creating a comprehensive international greenhouse gas emissions reduction agreement with



a goal of reducing global emissions by 90% by 2030.

We would support an emergency program to phase out coal and rapidly make renewable energy the main source for the power grid.

We would end the mining and processing of uranium and pull Australia out of the nuclear fuel cycle.

We would shift freight to rail, massively expand public transport and make it free.

We would initiate a program to convert manufacturing industries so as to manufacture the infrastructure of a sustainable economy, like renewable energy sources and railway networks.

We would end old-growth forest logging and initiate widespread reforestation programs.

We would stop the dredging of Port Phillip Bay.

We would retrain workers currently in polluting and environmentally destructive industries in sustainable industries on full pay.

## Iraq and Afghanistan — troops home now

A clear majority continues to oppose Australia's supporting the US in an Iraq war that has by mid-2006 had produced 655,000 deaths, 4.2 million refugees and doubled child malnutrition.

The same sort of disaster looms over Afghanistan, where the puppet Karzai regime and

the NATO military are rapidly alienating what popular support was won by the 2001 overthrow of the Taliban.

This year defence minister Brendan Nelson blurted out the real cause of these criminal wars: "The entire region is an important supplier of energy, oil in particular, to the rest of the world."

The "war on terror" has nothing to do with bringing democracy to the Middle East. This can only be the work of people's own struggles and never imposed as a "gift" by powerful outsiders.

We would immediately pull all Australian troops out from Iraq and Afghanistan, withdraw from ANZUS and APEC, close down US bases and end joint US-Australian war games.

We would lift Australian aid to developing countries to 1% of GDP (like Norway) and devote it to helping lift out of poverty those countries Australian policy has exploited or neglected (like East Timor).

## Serious action on housing

The housing affordability crisis goes from bad to worse. The most practical and immediate way to ease the interest rate squeeze and housing shortage is to increase federal funding for the building of new quality public housing.

For example, if we could spend the \$6 billion earmarked for the Super Hornet jets (that even the RAAF doesn't want) on a quality public housing scheme like Sweden's our housing crisis would disappear.

We would also pay mortgage assistance to low income-earners in difficulty, extend rent assistance to Austudy recipients and provide crisis accommodation for all who need it

## Indigenous land rights, not land grabs

At present rates of change the life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will never reach that of the non-Indigenous



population!

Our basic approach to Indigenous Australia is to provide solidarity and support to all struggles for justice by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, beginning with opposition to Howard's racist Northern Territory Emergency Act,

recognition of land rights within an Australian Bill of Rights and justice for all victims of police racism, like Mulrunji and T.J. Hickey.

**Reconciliation and compensation.** We recognise the sovereignty of the Indigenous people of Australia and call for a negotiated treaty to set this in law. We would make a formal apology and full reparation to the stolen generations, pay full compensation for stolen wages and property, and insist on implementing all of the recommendations of the 1991 Royal Commission into Black Deaths in Custody and the 1997 National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children.

**Rights and building awareness.** We would guarantee protection of sacred sites and artefacts, with all stolen heritage items being returned to their rightful custodians.

We would make the study of the history, culture and customs of Indigenous peoples part of core education and teacher training curricula. We would promote the revival of Aboriginal place names to stand alongside the place names arising from colonial settlement.

**Economic and social equality.** We would launch an emergency, properly funded campaign to eliminate Indigenous disadvantage and inequality in health, education, housing and jobs, to be developed and overseen by the relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities and organisations.

## Scrap the anti-terror laws

The Howard government, supported by the ALP, claims that specific anti-terrorism laws are needed to protect the public from terrorists. Yet murder, bombing, flying planes into buildings and blowing up trains have always been illegal.

These new laws strip away our civil rights and scapegoat Islamic and Arabic-speaking communities, which have suffered dramatically increased Australian police harassment since September 11, 2001.

The Tamil community has also suffered harassment. Three Tamil activists who have been campaigning for self-determination of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka, oppressed by a racist government, have been charged under the "anti-terror" laws.

The treatment of Dr Mohamed Haneef, Mamdouh Habib and David Hicks exposes the "war on terror" for what it really is: an unjust foreign policy requiring the intimidation and silencing of those who oppose it, as well as the scapegoating of minorities.

It is also an excuse to try and silence dissent, as seen in the farcical police operation around the recent APEC gathering in Sydney.

We would scrap the "anti-terror" laws and enshrine our democratic freedoms and civil liberties in a Bill of Rights.

We would free all people presently being held under "anti-terror" laws, like the Barwon 13 and drop the charges against the three Tamil activists.

### SENATE: Margarita Windisch



Margarita lives in the Western suburbs of Melbourne where she has been involved in a range of community actions. A founder of the Stop the War Coalition she was an organiser of rallies against Israel's war on Lebanon and Palestine and many protests calling for troop withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan. Margarita is very concerned about the erosion of civil liberties occurring in the name of fighting the 'war on terror' and the demonisation of Muslim and Arabic communities. Most recently Margarita has also been involved in campaigning for justice for the Indigenous community and an end to black deaths in custody.

### SENATE: Jeremy Smith



Jeremy Smith is a 40-year-old lecturer from the University of Ballarat and has lived in Geelong for seven years. As a committed trade unionist in the education sector, Jeremy is concerned about the impact of the Howard government's growing interference in the direction of universities, as well as its steady contraction of core public funding for higher education. As president of the National Tertiary Education Union at the University of Ballarat, he led a widely-publicised and successful industrial campaign against the university's two attempts to introduce a non-union enterprise agreement in 2005.

### CORIO: Chris Johnston



Chris Johnson is a long term activist in the peace movement and a founding member of the Geelong Anti-War Coalition. She is an active opponent of Howard's bogus war on terror, and opposes attacks on human rights, here and abroad. Chris is alarmed by climate change and its impact on rural water and the refusal of both federal and state governments to put forward real solutions. She is a big supporter of improving and extending the public transport system. Chris is opposed to uranium mining and nuclear power and wants to see a massive injection of public funds into renewable energy.

### GELLIBRAND: Ben Courtice



Ben Courtice is 31 years old and lives in the western suburbs where he works as a fitter and turner. He is an active member of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU). Ben has been a regular supporter at picket lines and workers' disputes across Melbourne and wishes that unions could collectively break the Work Choices ban on industrial action once and for all. In recent years, Ben was involved in the Justice for Jack campaign that campaigned against the victimisation of Western suburbs resident Jack Thomas by the Federal government in its PR quest for scalps in the "war against terror".

### WILLS: Zane Alcorn



Zane Alcorn is a 23-year-old worker and musician who got involved in a range of community campaigns whilst growing up in Newcastle. He has helped organise and lead various political campaigns, including youth protests against Work Choices and the Palm Sunday antinuclear protest in Melbourne. Zane has played a major role in developing the Socialist Alliance's Climate Charter, which puts forward sound practical and political answers to the climate crisis facing humanity. Zane, aka Ernce Doc Fruit, is also an experienced hip-hop artist, working with others to build the progressive element in the Oz hip-hop scene.

## End all discrimination

Australia remains a land of discrimination against women, homosexuals and refugees. Homosexuals found that out when the Howard government and the ALP passed the same-sex marriage ban in 2004.

We would implement policies to end second-class citizenship in Australia once and for all. These would include:

**Women's Rights.** We would legalise abortion, expand maternity leave (paid and unpaid), massively increase funding for women's services ensure equal pay for comparable work and strengthen programs to give women access to non-traditional work.

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersex and Transsexual Rights.** We would repeal the same-sex marriage ban, launch anti-homophobia campaigns for schools and communities to combat the rise in homophobic violence and provide funding for safe same-sex messages to arrest the rise in HIV.

We would enact enforceable anti-discrimination legislation, guarantee the right of gay men and lesbians to adopt or foster children, and end discrimination against gay men and lesbians in child custody cases.

We would boost funding for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth programs, including refuges and housing and health services, and coming out, self-esteem and suicide prevention programs.

**Refugees.** We would close the detention centres and end mandatory detention, abolish waiting times for social security, end all deportations and provide full citizenship rights.

For more detail on all these policies visit [www.socialist-alliance.org](http://www.socialist-alliance.org).

[Cartoons by Peter Nicholson of *The Australian*. Reproduced with our thanks.]

**Socialist Alliance parliamentarians would be a new breed of politician in Australia. Not careerists in suits leading comfortable lives, but 'champions of the people' who would use their parliamentary positions to speak up for people's rights and strengthen grassroots movements for social and environmental progress. If elected our candidates would take only an average worker's wage.**

Keep up with the campaign!

**FEDERAL ELECTION 2007  
CAMPAIGN FORUMS**

<http://socialistalliance.freeforums.org>

## Why choose socialism?

The Socialist Alliance stands for socialism — democratic ownership and management of society's wealth.

Socialism is the only possible alternative to capitalism, the source of the threatening catastrophe of global warming as well as the obscene inequalities here and around the world.

The decisions that most affect our lives can either be made as they are now — by corporate elites and the politicians who do their bidding — or they can be made through communities using their shared wealth, talents and power to forge their own future.

In a way, socialism is nothing new. From the time of the Roman slave revolts, people have struggled for the dream of a society based on the values of equality, freedom, generosity and solidarity.

But for thousands of years the dream could never become reality — society was too poor to provide a decent life for all.

That's no longer the reality. We could readily meet everyone's needs for food, housing, health, education, culture and recreation if the modern technologies, scientific knowledge, organisational know-how and sheer wealth that the giant corporations monopolise were brought under the control of all people.

Indeed, human labour is now so productive that we could achieve these goals at the same time as repairing the devastated natural environment, guaranteeing a good income for all and shortening the working week.

This last reform would provide the spare time for all human beings to develop their creative potential. We would be free to learn the skills of economic and social management — presently

the property of an elite few.

The main roadblock to this potential future is the profit system itself. So long as giant corporations compete with one another to produce ever more output at ever decreasing cost, our lives will be hostage to their needs.

We will be told that everything that hinders the corporations (especially the Australian variety!) from prevailing in the global war for profits is bad.

The messages will never change — public is inefficient, disarmament is irresponsible and the main purpose of life is to "make it" and consume. In short, today's dog-eat-dog existence is "natural" and capitalist competition the only practical form of social organisation.

Yet once the vital decisions in society are no longer made by a powerful parasitic few, people's instincts for solidarity will be liberated and we will be free to plan the solutions to the most pressing problems.

How to start to close the widening gulf between rich and poor? How to take rapid steps towards tackling global warming?

In a socialist society we will tackle such issues through our elected democratic institutions — studying the options, hearing the debates, voting for the necessary plans of work and overseeing their implementation.

Increasingly, this culture of collective creativity and self-management of social wealth will become the rule, massively expanding people's potential for development and fulfilment.

And at that point brutally primitive capitalism will have been placed where it already now belongs — in the dust bin of history.

## Help the campaign • Join Socialist Alliance

### I want to help with the election campaign

I can help letterbox  I can hand out how-to-vote cards on polling day

### I would like to donate to the election campaign fund

\$1000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  Other (please specify \$ \_\_\_\_\_)

NOTE: Campaign donations of up to \$1500 are tax deductible.

### I want to join Socialist Alliance

\$60 regular  \$24 waged  \$12 unwaged  \$6 high school student

I want to know more about the work of Socialist Alliance in my union. I am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ (specify union)

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Cheque/money order enclosed

Debit my  Mastercard  Visa

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb/town \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

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