

We Believe



A STATEMENT OF LIBERAL
PARTY BELIEFS

For further information contact—

Miss Peg Pelchen M.B.E.,
Executive Officer, Women's Section
Telephone: 654 2255

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1. WE BELIEVE IN THE CROWN as the enduring embodiment of our national unity and as the symbol of that other unity which exists between all the nations of the British Commonwealth.



2. We BELIEVE IN AUSTRALIA, her courage, her capacity, her future and her national sovereignty, exercised through Parliaments deriving their authority from the people by free and open elections.

3. WE BELIEVE IN THE INDIVIDUAL. We stand positively for the free man, his initiative, individuality and acceptance of responsibility.



4. WE BELIEVE IN THE RULE OF LAW. Under it, there is freedom for the nation and for all men and women. Democracy depends upon self-discipline, obedience to the law, the honest administration of the law.

5. WE BELIEVE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE VOLUNTEER. This does not mean that we reject compulsion in matters in which a uniform obedience is needed by the community. But it does mean that the greatest community efforts can be made only when voluntary co-operation and self-sacrifice come in aid of and lend character to the performance of legal duties.

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6. WE BELIEVE THAT RIGHTS CONNOTE DUTIES, and that sectional and selfish policies are destructive of good citizenship.

7. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE SUPREME FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONALITY; that to-day's dogma may turn out to be to-morrow's error; and that, in consequence, the interests of all legitimate minorities must be protected.



8. WE BELIEVE IN LIBERTY not anarchy, but an individual and social liberty based upon and limited by a civilized conception of social justice.

9. WE BELIEVE THAT THE "CLASS WAR" IS A FALSE WAR. The real conflict of our time is not between "classes" in the old sense but between the iron discipline of autocracy - whether Communist or Fascist —and the self-imposed discipline of the free man. The spirit of man must prevail.

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10. WE BELIEVE THAT LIBERALISM MEANS FLEXIBILITY AND PROGRESS. Its principles and its spiritual and intellectual approach enable it to meet and deal with new and

changing social and economic circumstances. By elevating the individual it meets and defeats the terrible doctrine of the all-powerful State; a doctrine at once destructive, reactionary and negative.



11. WE BELIEVE THAT IMPROVED LIVING STANDARDS DEPEND UPON HIGH PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENT SERVICE; and that these vital elements can be achieved only by free and competitive enterprise.

12. WE BELIEVE THAT NATIONAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POWER AND POLICY ARE NOT TO BE DESIGNED TO CONTROL MEN'S LIVES, but to create a climate in which men may be enabled to work out their own salvation in their own way.



13. WE BELIEVE IN THE GREAT HUMAN FREEDOMS; to worship; to think; to speak; to choose; to be ambitious; to be independent to be industrious; to acquire skill; to seek and earn reward.

14. WE BELIEVE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE; in encouraging the strong and protecting the weak; in widening opportunities for education; in the preservation of family life; in good homes owned by those who live in them.

15. WE BELIEVE IN RELIGIOUS AND RACIAL TOLERANCE AMONG OUR CITIZENS.

16. WE BELIEVE THAT ALL FORMS OF INDUSTRY, PRIMARY OR SECONDARY OR OTHERWISE, DEPEND ONE UPON THE OTHER, and that their community of interest will be the guarantee of the nation's growth.

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17. WE BELIEVE that, under the blessing of Divine Providence, and given good will mutual tolerance and understanding, energy, and an individual sense of purpose, there is no task which Australia cannot perform, and no difficulty which she cannot overcome.

YOU CAN HELP!



The statement of beliefs in this booklet is for everybody in Australia, and concerns everybody.

You can help the Liberal cause by making these beliefs known to your friends. When you have read "We Believe", talk about it, and work for it.

If you require additional copies, contact the State Secretariat.

Authorised by: N. R. Hughes, for The Liberal Party of
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104 Exhibition Street, Melbourne.
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275 Lt Lonsdale St., Melbourne. 663 4771.