

Mr Adam Bandt MP

Greens Spokesperson for Employment & Workplace Relations; Emergency Services; Banking; Innovation & Industry, including High Speed Rail; Science & Research; Assisting on Climate and Energy; and House of Representatives Reform



Greens Member for Melbourne

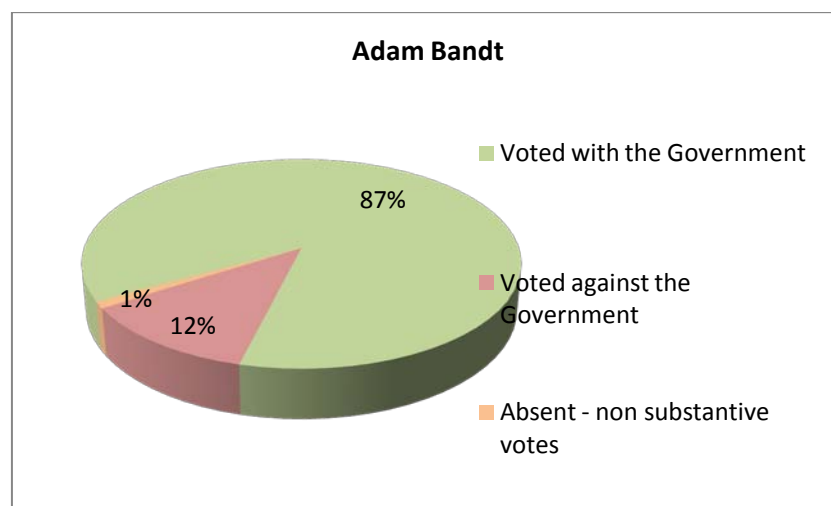
Adam Bandt was born in Adelaide in 1972 but grew up in Perth. He gained degrees in Arts and Law from Murdoch University before moving to Melbourne, where he eventually studied for his PhD at Monash University.

Adam worked as a solicitor and later a partner in the industrial relations unit at Slater & Gordon from 1997-2008, where he led cases on behalf of the Textiles Workers Union and Electrical Trades Union. From 2008-10 he worked as a barrister.

In 2009, Adam was National Convenor of the Australian Greens Party.

Adam unsuccessfully contested the seat of Melbourne at the 2007 election against sitting Labor Member Lindsay Tanner. In 2008, he unsuccessfully ran for Lord Mayor of the Melbourne City Council. Adam was elected to the seat of Melbourne at the 2010 election, the first member of the Australian Greens to be elected to the House of Representatives. Following the 2010 election, The Australian Greens made an agreement to support the Gillard Labor Government. The agreement is available [here](#).

Adam lives in Parkville with his partner.



Mr Tony Crook MP



WA Nationals Member for O'Connor

Tony Crook was born in Merredin, Western Australia in 1959, where his family were pioneer farmers in the Eastern Wheatbelt. On completion of his schooling, Tony went to work on the family's sheep station 'Woolibar Station' outside of Kalgoorlie, taking over ownership and management of it in 1982.

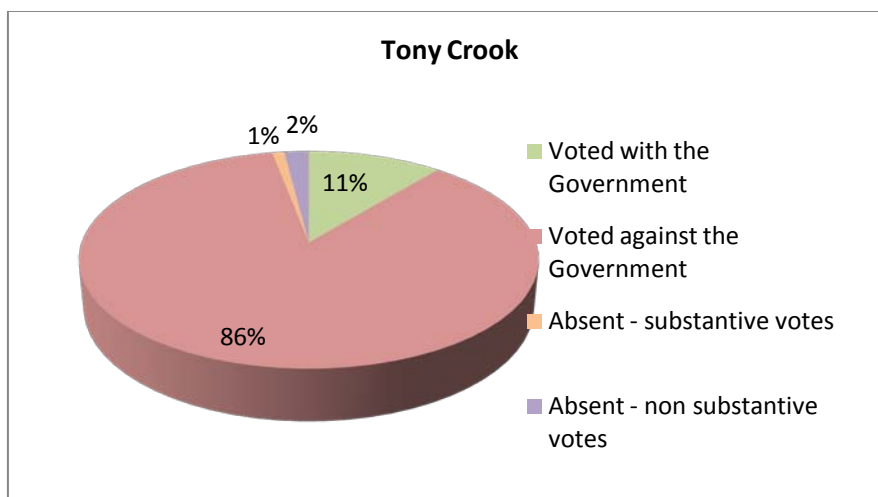
For the past ten years, Tony has served as Chairman of the Royal Flying Doctor Service Western Operations Board, including three years as National President. In 2004, he was awarded a Centenary Medal for Services to Emergency Medicine and Life Membership of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. In 2006, Tony and his wife Karen sold 'Woolibar Station' and moved to Kalgoorlie, where Tony worked in a pastoral and management business with his brother.

Since 2007, Tony has served as President of the Kalgoorlie branch of the Nationals.

Following his election to the seat of O'Connor in 2010, Tony stated his intention to oppose a Labor Government based on his opposition to the proposed mining tax, but maintained that he would sit as a crossbencher in the House of Representatives, representing the interests of regional Western Australia.

On Saturday 5 May 2012, Tony announced that he would be joining the federal Nationals parliamentary party room from Tuesday 8 May 2012. In announcing his decision, he noted that he had been unable to successfully leverage his vote as a crossbencher.

Tony and his wife have three adult daughters.



The Hon. Bob Katter MP



Independent Member for Kennedy

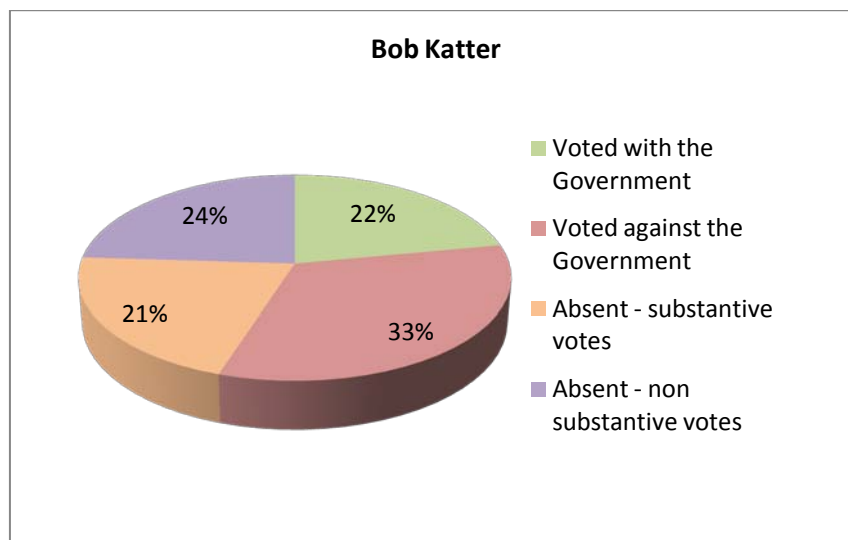
Robert (Bob) Katter was born in 1945 in Cloncurry. He studied law at the University of Queensland but left before finishing his degree, and served as a Second Lieutenant in the Citizens Military Force.

Bob worked as a labourer, in insurance, and in small mining interests before being elected to the Queensland Parliament as the Country Party (later the National Party) Member for Flinders in 1974. From 1983-87, Bob served as the Minister for Northern Development and also for Aboriginal and Islander Affairs in the Bjelke-Petersen Government.

In 1992, Bob resigned from the Seat of Flinders, and in 1993 switched to Federal politics, contesting the seat of Kennedy, which his father, Bob Katter Senior, had held from 1966-90. In 2001, he resigned from the National Party and contested Kennedy as an Independent.

With the 2010 election resulting in a hung parliament, Bob entered into negotiations with both major parties, releasing a list of 20 key policy points of concern to him, available [here](#). However he chose not to give support to either major party. In 2011, he set up his own party called Katter's Australian Party.

Bob lives in Charters Towers and is married to Susie.



Mr Robert Oakeshott MP



Independent Member for Lyne

Rob Oakeshott was born in Lismore in 1969. He gained an Arts degree with Honours in Government from Sydney University.

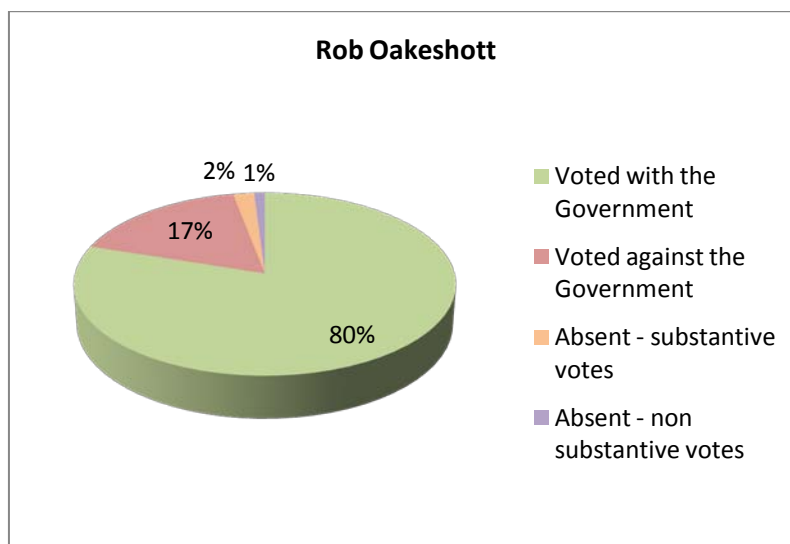
From 1992-93, Rob worked for the lobbying firm Resolutions, before joining the office of National Party Leader The Hon. Mark Vaile MP as a media officer in 1993. At a by-election in 1996, Rob was elected to the NSW Legislative Assembly in the seat of Port Macquarie as a member of the National Party. At the age of 25, he was the youngest member of the NSW Parliament. During his time as a NSW Parliamentarian, Rob completed a Law Degree at Macquarie University.

In 2002, Rob resigned from the National Party and from his Shadow Ministry portfolio. At the 2003 NSW election, he retained his seat as an Independent candidate.

Following the 2007 defeat of the Howard Government and the 2008 resignation of Mark Vaile from the seat of Lyne, Rob resigned as the NSW Member for Port Macquarie to contest Lyne in a by-election. He won the seat, and retained it at the 2010 election.

With the 2010 election resulting in a hung parliament, Rob gave his support to the Gillard Labor Government, along with fellow Independent MP Tony Windsor. The agreement they made is available [here](#). Together with Windsor and Members of the Australian Greens, Rob was a member of the Government's Multi-Party Climate Change Committee.

Rob is married to Sara-Jane and they have four young children.



The Hon. Peter Slipper MP



Independent Member for Fisher

Peter Slipper was born in Ipswich in 1950. He gained degrees in Arts and Law from the University of Queensland. Prior to entering the Parliament, Peter worked as a barrister, solicitor, farmer and businessman. He also served on the Parole Board of the West Moreton Regional Community Corrections Board.

Peter was first elected as the Member for Fisher as a member of the National Party in 1984. He lost the seat at the 1987 election, but regained it as a member of the Liberal Party in 1993.

Peter served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration from 1998-2004 in the Howard Government. From 2008, he was a member of the merged Liberal National Party in Queensland. He was a member of the Speakers' Panel from 2008-10.

After the 2010 election, Peter served as Deputy Speaker. Following his election as Speaker of the House of Representatives on 24 November 2011, he resigned from the Liberal National Party. In accordance with Section 40 of the Constitution, Peter can only exercise a casting vote when the numbers are equal.

While serving as speaker, Peter has used his casting vote on one occasion. On 19 March 2012 on the matter of the Independent Member for Lyne Rob Oakeshott's motion for disallowance of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Regulations 2011 (No. 5), as contained in the Select Legislative Instrument 2011 No. 222, and made under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*, Mr Slipper used his casting vote to vote with the Government and resolve the matter in the negative. In doing so, Mr. Slipper referenced two principles: that decisions should not be taken except by a majority; and that legislation should be left in its original form.

On Sunday 22 April, Peter announced that he would stand aside from his position as Speaker of the House of Representatives following allegations of criminal misconduct in relation to matters of parliamentary entitlements. Peter has denied the allegations, and has said that he will resume his role as Speaker once the allegations are resolved. Although he has stood aside, Peter still formally holds the position of Speaker, and is therefore unable to vote on matters before the House of Representatives.

In his place, the Deputy Speaker, Labor Member for Chisholm MP Ms. Anna Bourke, will act as Speaker, and will hold the Speaker's casting vote.

Mr Craig Thomson MP



Independent Member for Dobell

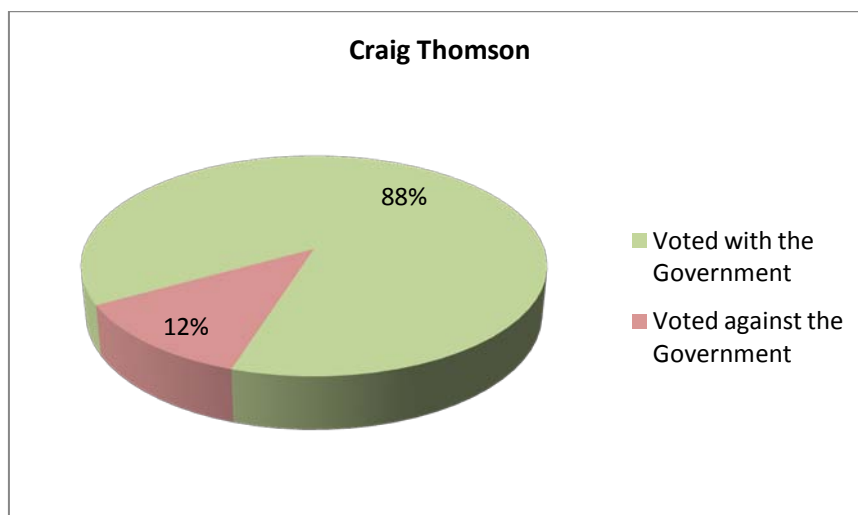
Craig Thompson was born in Wellington, New Zealand, and grew up in Bathurst, NSW. Craig moved to Sydney to attend university, and holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and a Bachelor of Law from the University of Technology Sydney.

In 2007 Craig was elected to the House of Representatives as the Australian Labor Party's candidate for the electorate of Dobell, on the Central Coast of New South Wales.

Prior to his election, Craig worked in the union sector. Craig has represented health workers, ambulance officers and aged care workers since 1988 when he commenced working with the Health Services Union. He has held various positions with that union including Assistant Secretary of the NSW Branch and has since 2002 been the National Secretary of the union.

On Sunday 29 April 2012, Craig announced that he would stand aside as a member of the Australian Labor Party, and join the crossbenches as an independent. The announcement followed allegations of misuse of a union credit card while he was National Secretary of the Health Services Union (HSU). He has denied the allegations. Craig indicated that he would continue to support the Labor Government while sitting as a crossbencher.

Craig is an active lifesaver, regularly volunteers for Meals on Wheels, and is an active participant in the local community organisation, "Coastal Voice." He lives in the Central Cost suburb of Bateau Bay with his wife Zoe, and two daughters.



Mr Andrew Wilkie MP

Independent Member for Denison

Andrew Wilkie was born in 1961 in Tamworth. He was a cadet at the Royal Military College, Duntroon from 1980-84 and gained a Bachelor of Arts from the University of New South Wales.



From 1984-2001 Andrew served as an Infantry Officer in the Australian Army where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and was seconded to the Office of National Assessments (ONA) in 1999. He also holds a Graduate Diploma of Management and a Graduate Diploma of Defence Studies.

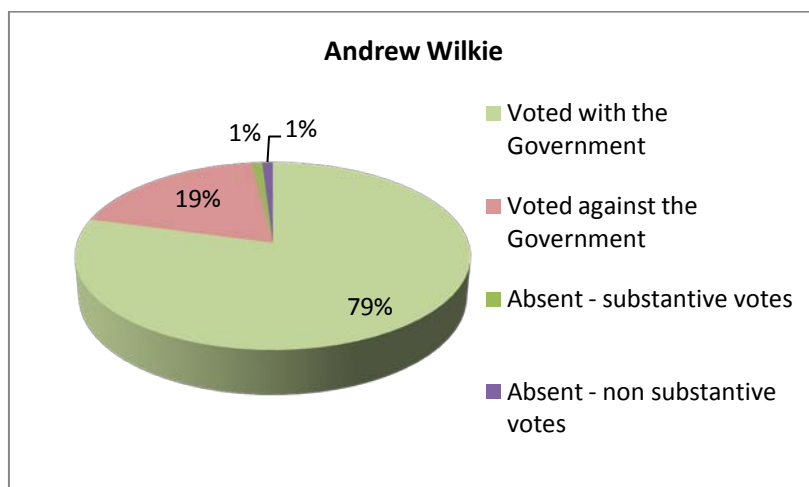
Apart from a brief stint with defence company Raytheon in 2000-01, from 1999-2003 Andrew worked for the ONA. In 2003, he resigned in protest over the Iraq war, accusing the Howard Government of misleading the public. His book on the subject *Axis of deceit* was published in 2004.

In 2004, Andrew unsuccessfully ran as a candidate for the Greens against Prime Minister Howard in the seat of Bennelong. In 2007, he unsuccessfully ran as a candidate on the Greens Tasmanian Senate ticket, but left the party in 2008. At the 2010 Tasmanian election, Andrew unsuccessfully contested the seat of Denison as an Independent. He was subsequently successful in gaining the Federal seat of Denison at the Federal election later that year.

With the 2010 election resulting in a hung parliament, Andrew gave his support to the Gillard Labor Government. His agreement with the Government is available [here](#). Andrew's support is conditional upon the Government's implementation of mandatory pre-commitment technology on poker machines to fight problem gambling.

On 21 January 2012, Andrew announced that he would no longer guarantee supply and confidence in the Government. Mr Wilkie's announcement came in response to Prime Minister Julia Gillard's announcement on Tackling Problem Gambling. Mr Wilkie's statement is available [here](#). The Prime Minister's announcement on Tackling Problem Gambling is available [here](#).

Andrew lives in Sandy Bay with his wife Kate and their two young daughters.



Mr Tony Windsor MP



Independent Member for New England

Tony Windsor was born in Quirindi in 1950, and has lived on his family property 'Cintra' near Werris Creek since childhood. He completed his secondary schooling in Tamworth before gaining a Bachelor of Economics from the University of New England in Armidale.

In 1991, Tony was elected as an Independent candidate to the NSW Legislative Assembly in the seat of Tamworth. With three other Independents, he held the balance of power in the Assembly, eventually supporting a Liberal/National Coalition Government.

In 2001, Tony resigned from the NSW Parliament and successfully contested the Federal seat of New England, again as an Independent. He was re-elected at the 2004, 2007 and 2010 elections.

With the 2010 election resulting in a hung parliament, Tony gave his support to the Gillard Labor Government, along with fellow Independent MP Rob Oakeshott. The agreement they made is available [here](#). Together with Oakeshott and Members of the Australian Greens, Tony was a member of the Government's Multi-Party Climate Change Committee.

Tony and his wife Lyn have three children.

