

Hawker Britton

Senator Nick Xenophon

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Nick Xenophon is an independent Senator for South Australia. At the time of publication he had been re-elected to the Senate at the July 2 Federal election along with two or potentially three other members of his Nick Xenophon Team (NXT).

NXT also won a seat in the House of Representatives for the SA division of Mayo – based in the Adelaide Hills - and potentially in the regional seat of Grey – including Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie. Both of these seats were held by the Liberal Party.

Senator Xenophon has previously been elected to both the Australian Senate and South Australian Legislative Council on various independent tickets, initially on a No Pokies ticket

Senator Xenophon has previously held the balance of power in both the South Australian and Federal upper houses.

In 2014, Senator Xenophon launched NXT (formerly the Nick Xenophon Group) and announced candidates would be run in all states in the lead up to the 2016 Federal election.

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Nick Xenophon

Nick Xenophon was born in South Australia and studied law at the University of Adelaide, where he was for a period a member of the Young Liberals. After university, he established and became principal of his own plaintiff law firm, Xenophon & Co.

Nick Xenophon was elected to the South Australian Parliament at the 1997 state election on the Independent No Pokies ticket. Following the election of the Rann Labor Government in 2002, he held the balance of power in the Legislative Council along with other minor parties including Family First and the Democrats.

After his election to Federal Parliament as Senator for South Australia in 2007, Nick Xenophon held the balance of power in the Senate with the Australian Greens and Family First from mid-2008 until July 2011. Xenophon was re-elected to the Senate in 2013.

Electoral history

South Australian Legislature – No Pokies

Nick Xenophon stood for the South Australian Legislative Council at the 1997 election under an Independent 'No Pokies ticket'. At the election, he received 2.86 per cent of the state-wide vote, or a quota of 0.34. Through preferences from micro parties and Grey Power, he went on to achieve a quota of 1.08 and was the first Independent elected to the Legislative Council in 60 years.

At the 2006 South Australian election, he dramatically increased his vote, receiving 190,958 first preferences or 20.51 per cent of the total vote. This strong result enabled his re-election and also election of the second No Pokies candidate, Ann Bressington.

Following the 2006 election, the Labor government required four non-Labor upper house members to pass legislation, and the No Pokies on two seats shared the balance of power with Family First on two seats, the SA Greens and Democrats on one seat each.

On 11 October 2007, Nick Xenophon announced he would run for the Federal Senate and vacated his Legislative Council seat. Following a joint sitting of the South Australian parliament on 21 November 2007, former SA Valuer-General John Darley, the third candidate on the No Pokies Party ticket in 2006, was appointed Nick Xenophon's replacement.

Federal Parliament – Nick Xenophon Group

At the 2007 Federal election, Nick Xenophon received a total of 148,789 votes, representing 14.78 per cent of enrolled electors, and was elected Senator for South Australia.

Xenophon was re-elected at the 2013 Federal election, receiving a total of 258,376 votes, increasing his vote to 24.9 per cent, just short of two quotas.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the Senate election results at the 2013 Federal election is available [here](#).

South Australia – No Pokies

No Pokies was an independent South Australian Legislative Council ticket formed by Nick Xenophon that contested the 1997, 2002, and 2006 state elections. Independents elected from the ticket include:

- Nick Xenophon;
- Ann Bressington, anti-drugs campaigner, elected in 2006 as the second candidate on the No Pokies ticket; and
- John Darley, former valuer-general, third candidate on the No Pokies ticket in 2006 appointed to replace Nick Xenophon in the SA state legislature in 2007. John Darley ran again in 2014 as a candidate in the Independent Nick Xenophon Team.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on 2010 South Australian election is available [here](#).



Federal – Nick Xenophon Group

The Nick Xenophon Group was founded in the lead-up to the 2013 Federal election and only fielded Senate candidates, which included:

- Nick Xenophon;
- Stirling Griff, a retail industry consultant and former CEO of the Australian Retailers Association in South Australia, as the Campaign Director of NXG and the second candidate on its ticket; and
- John Darley as the third candidate on the ticket.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the 2013 Federal election is available [here](#).

Federal – Nick Xenophon Team (NXT)

The Nick Xenophon Group was re-launched as the Nick Xenophon Team in 2014, with Xenophon announcing candidates would be run at a national level.

2016 Federal Election Candidates

In the lead up to the 2016 Federal election, Senator Xenophon announced the following NXT candidates who will contest lower and upper house seats.

	House of Representatives	Senate
NSW	▪ Rod Bloomfield, Calare	▪ Aidan Dalgliesh
	▪ Stephen Lynch, Lindsay	▪ Anthony Dona
	▪ Marie Rowland, Warringah	
QLD	▪ Josie Townsend, Groom	▪ Suzanne Grant
	▪ Des Soares, Moreton	▪ Daniel Crow
SA	▪ Joe Hill, Adelaide	▪ Nick Xenophon
	▪ James Stacey, Barker	▪ Stirling Griff
	▪ Karen Hockley, Boothby	▪ Skye Kakoschke-Moore
	▪ Andrea Broadfoot, Grey	▪ Tim Storer
	▪ Daniel Kirk, Hindmarsh	
	▪ Damien Carey, Kingston	
	▪ Craig Bossie, Makin	
	▪ Rebekha Sharkie, Mayo	
	▪ Michael Slattery, Port Adelaide	
TAS		▪ Michelle Hoult
		▪ Nicky Cohen
VIC	▪ Nancy Bassett, Higgins	▪ Naomi Halpern
		▪ Justin Lee
WA		▪ Luke Bolton
		▪ Michael Bovell

Key policy principles

The NXT have released a suite of key policy principles including:

Gambling

- Senator Xenophon is a long standing advocate for gambling reform, and will advocate for:
 - An immediate implementation of the Productivity Commission's recommendation for \$1 maximum bets per spin and \$120 in hourly losses;
 - An end to micro-betting on sports events;
 - An overhaul of online gambling laws, to take into account the impact of emerging technologies.
- In 2011 Senator Xenophon introduced legislation to:
 - Prohibit the broadcast of any form of gambling advertising during any G-rated program or sports broadcast
 - Ban micro betting (such as ball-by-ball bets), which greatly increases the potential for corruption in sport
 - Prevent the opening up of online gambling
- Senator Xenophon also introduced gambling reform in 2012 to implement the Productivity Commission's recommended \$1 maximum bet per spin and \$120 restriction on hourly losses. Both Labor and the Coalition voted against these measures.

Australian Made and Australian Jobs

- Senator Xenophon believes the government should support Australian made goods and will advocate for:
 - The introduction of an Australian Made labelling category where 75% or more of the labour component to manufacture or assemble the product was undertaken by Australian residents;
 - A requirement for government departments to procure a larger portion of Australian produced and manufactured products and services; and
 - Tighter anti-dumping laws to prevent an influx of below-cost imported goods.

Government Accountability

- Senator Xenophon believes the main role for the government is to provide public infrastructure and services, and will advocate for:
 - The establishment of an anti-corruption commission;
 - Timely and transparent reporting of politician entitlements and claims; and
 - A review of duplicated services across the three levels of government for more efficient delivery.

Foreign Investment

- Senator Xenophon believes the government should provide incentives for Australians to invest in their own country, and will advocate for:
 - A foreign investment register of key assets to promote greater transparency; and

- A decrease in the existing Foreign Investment Review Board threshold, currently at \$252 million, in order to better scrutinise overseas transactions greater than \$5 million.

Innovation, Technology, R&D

- Senator Xenophon believes that it is the responsibility of the government to bring together innovative thinkers, venture capital and a highly skilled and diverse workforce. Xenophon will advocate for:
 - The creation of a ministerial position with the responsibility for leading a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across government agencies, research institutions and the private sector.

Environment and Water

- Senator Xenophon believes in protecting and preserving Australia's natural resources, and will advocate for:
 - The introduction of an emission trading scheme based on the Frontier Economics scheme;
 - The introduction of Federal legislation to oversee the protection of key environmental assets, rather than the states;
 - Fast-tracking storm water harvesting; and
 - A fairer distribution of water by addressing wasteful practices throughout the Murray-Darling Basin.

Climate Change and Energy

- Senator Xenophon believes government has the responsibility to lead a best practice approach to reducing carbon emissions, reducing the reliance of fossil fuels and reducing inefficient forms of energy generation. Xenophon will advocate for:
 - Prioritising the domestic availability of Australian energy and resources before being sold overseas;
 - Limit the importation of substandard climate change or renewable energy products; and
 - The introduction of an emission trading scheme (ETS) based on world's best practice.

Small Business

- Senator Xenophon believes government plays an integral role in fostering small business growth, and will advocate for:
 - Targeted tax breaks for small business in the first two years of operation;
 - Payroll tax exemption for small business with up to 15 full-time equivalent employees; and
 - An easier procedure to process Government services for small business.

Superannuation

- Senator Xenophon believes there should be greater certainty in how superannuation funds are managed, and will advocate for:
 - An overturn in the delay to increase the superannuation guarantee from 9.5% to 12%;
 - An overhaul of the superannuation industry to require that investment choices are made under increased checks and balances;
 - Superannuation funds to be required to hold an annual general meeting to provide members the opportunity to ask questions; and
 - Tax-breaks for superannuation must be re-calibrated so the greatest benefit is directed to those with the least savings, and a reduced benefit applies those with very high superannuation savings.

Healthcare

- Senator Xenophon believes there needs to be a shift in focus to preventative healthcare, and will advocate for:
 - A reinstatement of the 30% private health insurance rebate;
 - An expansion of telemedicine in regional communities; and
 - Targeted funding to reduce chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and osteoporosis.

Aging Population

- Senator Xenophon believes government plays a pivotal role in addressing ageing population issues, and will advocate for:
 - The relaxing of income testing for those who receive a pension;
 - Limiting utility cost increases to be no greater than CPI, with instances of increases above CPI, rebated to those on a government pension; and
 - Developers and providers of retirement accommodation to meet all existing government requirements, as well as be required to provide transition accommodation options for residents who may require low or high care facilities in the future.

The full list of NXT Policy Principles is available [here](#).

The NXT 11-Point Wish list

Following the publication of Nick Xenophon's 11-point wish list in the [Adelaide Advertiser](#) on 30 June, the below points are in addition to the NXT's policy principles:

Manufacturing and Jobs

- Funding to secure 6000 jobs at steelmaker Arrium and the long-term future of Whyalla;
- Provide automotive component companies an opportunity to explore innovative manufacturing opportunities, by releasing funding from the \$750 million that will be underspent in the automotive transformation scheme and also using the funds to assist in implementing the Northern Adelaide Plains horticulture proposal;
- That Australia does not sign up to the WTO procurement agreement;
- Australia seek opportunities to maximise local industry participation in the supply ships contract rather than all shipbuilding jobs going to Spain; and
- Reform vocational training and apprenticeships to also accommodate workers transitioning from other industries.

Protect our Prime Agricultural Land and Food Production

- The NXT opposes the sale of S. Kidman and Co. to foreign investment;
- A clear water trigger for fracking that can impact on water tables and prime agricultural land; and
- Provide tax incentives for superannuation funds to invest in Australian agriculture and food production.

Infrastructure and Roads

- A restoration of the \$28 million in supplementary road funding allocated to SA.

Education

- The NXT supports Gonski funding and in addition, placing an emphasis on teacher mentoring and support.

Energy Prices

- The NXT seeks a meeting between State and Federal governments, industry and consumers to discuss SA's high power prices which would involve a greater emphasis on interconnection of the power grid with Victoria, and supporting the base load solar thermal plant in Port Augusta.

Migration

- The NXT seek the creation of a special regional migration status to encourage business migrants and their families to invest and stay in SA; and
- Establish SA as an international student hub to encourage growth in higher education and vocational education sectors.