

**The Family First Party**

**June 2014**

The Family First Party (FFP) is an economic and socially conservative political party in Australia founded in South Australia in 2001. The party has successfully contested various Federal and State elections over the past decade.

Family First candidate Bob Day AO was elected Senator for South Australia at the 2013 Federal election and will join a key group of minor party and independent cross bench Senators set to hold the balance of power in the Senate from 1 July 2014.

On 1 June 2014, Mr Day entered into an alliance with New South Wales senator-elect Mr David Leyonhjelm of the Liberal Democratic Party. Under their agreement, the pair will vote together on all economic issues when the new Senate sits from 1 July 2014.

At a state level, the recent re-election of Dennis Hood to the South Australian Legislative Assembly will see FFP complete twenty consecutive years in office by the time his term expires in 2022.

The Family First Party's website is available [here](#).

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**Key principles**

The Family First Party's policy platform is underscored by three key principles: strong families, strong values and strong Australia.

'Strong families': Family First believes public finances should be diverted from expensive (high taxing) governments to families.

'Strong values': Family First opposes corruption, wastefulness, price gouging by government agencies (water prices, power prices, land prices) and politicians' spending.

'Strong Australia': Family First believes property rights, free markets, voluntary arrangements and effective safety nets provide the best opportunity for Australia and Australians to prosper. This includes support for infrastructure, strong defence capabilities and businesses.

## **Key personnel**

### **Bob Day**

Robert (Bob) John Day AO was elected as a Senator for the State of South Australia at the 2013 Federal election. Mr Day has worked as a businessman in Adelaide and was founder of various home building companies operating in Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

In 2003, Mr Day was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for service to the housing industry and to social welfare and was also awarded the Centenary of Federation medal for service to housing and charity.

Mr Day's policy interests include youth employment, homelessness, urban planning, federalism and industrial relations. Before joining Family First, Mr Day had been a long-time member of the Liberal Party of Australia (1987–2008).

He has served as President of the Housing Industry Association and Independent Contractors of Australia, as a Director of the Centre for Independent Studies, as Chairman of the Institute of Public Affairs' Great Australian Dream Project, and as Secretary of both the Samuel Griffith Society and the HR Nicholls Society. Mr Day was also a member of the National Work for the Dole Advisory Committee.

Mr Day's website is available [here](#).

### **Andrew Lee Evans OAM**

Andrew Evans helped found the Family First Party and was elected into the Legislative Council at the 2002 South Australian state election.

Before entering politics, Mr Evans spent thirty years as a Pentecostal Christian pastor in the Assemblies of God. Mr Evans also served as National Superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Australia for two decades.

Mr Evans' Legislative Council term expired in 2008.

### **Dennis Hood**

Dennis Hood was first elected to the South Australian Legislative Council in 2006, and is currently the South Australian leader of the Family First Party.

Before entering politics, Mr Hood was an executive for Johnson & Johnson's pharmaceuticals. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Politics) and Economics from the University of Adelaide. He was re-elected at the 2014 South Australian state election.

## **Key policies**

### **1. Economic policy**

- Family First has called for the tax system to be simplified and for taxation levels to be flattened and reduced.
- The FFP proposes a 20/20/20 tax system, whereby there would be a \$20 000 tax-free threshold, 20 per cent flat income tax and 20 per cent flat company tax.
- The FFP argues that this system would increase productivity and investment, and would substantially reduce the size of government.
- Family First also supports abolishing payroll tax and mining tax, reducing vertical fiscal imbalance and abolishing the Commonwealth Grants Commission.

### **2. Workplace relations**

- Family First promotes the view that workplace regulations are not only bad for the economy but are also morally wrong. The FFP advocates for the removal of workplace regulations and Awards that price unskilled people out of the job market.
- Family First's policies also seek to protect the right of employees and employers to determine what is in their common interests, and support the freedom of those who choose to work differently by moving out of the regulated world of 'traditional employment'.

### **3. Property**

Family First is concerned about 'land affordability' and seeks to shift the focus in the home ownership debate from capital gains tax, negative gearing and interest rates to state government land supply policies. As such, the FFP supports:

- an end to zoning restrictions that prevent rural fringe land being used as residential land and the abolition of 'Master Planning';
- privatisation of planning approvals; and
- an end to 'up-front' infrastructure charges (rates) in favour of user-pays charges.

The Family First Party also opposes heritage listing, water restrictions, native vegetation, rising sea levels, zoning, Native Title and court decisions that impact on property rights.

The Party's housing policy is available [here](#) and property policy is available [here](#).

#### **4. Social policies**

The FFP policy platform seeks to ‘strengthen the capacity of families to care for their children and contribute to their communities rather than promoting a reliance on government services.’ This includes:

- opposition to the Paid Parental Leave scheme, and increased support for mothers who work in the home;
- opposition to Marriage Equality;
- opposition to voluntary euthanasia; and
- increased support for programs and initiatives for carers within families.

The Family First Party’s ‘Families’ policy is available [here](#).

The Family First party’s Life Policy is available [here](#), and marriage policy available [here](#).

#### *Disabilities*

Family First believes in a fundamental right of supported access to education, employment, medical care and housing for those who are unable to live independently as a consequence of their disability. This includes support for:

- increased funding for medical services and equipment for people with disabilities;
- increased financial and respite support for carers; and
- increased funding for education, development and workplace incentives for qualified staff to the vocation of caring for people with profound disability.

#### **5. Education**

- Family First seeks to promote choice in education through the introduction of educational vouchers, and the decentralisation of educational administration through increased autonomy for school principles and school councils.
- The Family First Party supports funding for both public and private schools to ensure that the right of parents to choose is respected and supported.

The Family First Party’s education policy is available [here](#).

#### **6. Environment**

The Family First Party opposes carbon pricing, and believes that a Royal Commission is a necessary precondition for the introduction of any carbon pricing or emission trading scheme.

The party’s Climate Change policy is available [here](#).

The Family First Party also believes the South Australian state government should not refer powers to the Commonwealth or any national body to administer the River Murray and believes that South Australia should use all the resources at its disposal.

The party's Water policy is available [here](#).

## **7. Foreign policy**

Family First believes that Australia supports an active, interventionist foreign policy, including:

- the deployment of Australian troops in Iraq and Afghanistan;
- assistance to the Asia Pacific rim in quelling civil strife and rendering humanitarian assistance;
- the continuation of peacemaking and peacekeeping activities in the Asia-Pacific region; and
- increased support for foreign aid projects focused on health, infrastructure, education and training, clean water, farming and micro-enterprise development.

The Family First party's foreign policy is available [here](#).

The Family First party's aid and development policy is available [here](#).

## **Electoral history**

### *South Australian state elections*

The first election the FFP contested was the 2002 South Australian Election, receiving 4.02 per cent of the primary vote which, combined with preferences, enabled FFP candidate Dr Andrew Evans to be elected to one of the eleven seats available in the South Australian Legislative Council.

At the 2006 South Australian Election, the party increased their vote and Dennis Hood was the second FFP candidate elected to the Legislative Council. Mr Hood was re-elected in 2014.

### *Federal elections*

At the 2004 Federal election, the FFP received 1.76 per cent of the national vote, and its lead Senate candidate in Victoria, Steve Fielding, was elected with 1.88 per cent of the vote along with preferences.

At the 2010 Federal election, Family First unsuccessfully contested the Senate in all states. Senator Fielding's term expired in 2011.

At the 2013 Federal election, FFP candidate Bob Day AO was elected Senator for South Australia. Mr Day received 3.76 per cent of the primary vote or 0.26 of a quota, getting to the 14.3 per cent quota from 19 group voting ticket party preferences. Mr Day will assume his seat on 1 July 2014.

**Alliance with the Liberal Democratic Party**

On 1 June 2014 it was announced that senator-elect Day had formed an alliance with New South Wales senator-elect David Leyonhjelm of the Liberal Democratic Party.

Under their agreement, the pair will vote together on all economic issues, but will decide their own positions on social issues.

Both senators-elect share similar economic values. Bob Day advocates for lowering the minimum wage to encourage employment and lower taxation. David Leyonhjelm supports the privatisation of schools and hospitals, a lower minimum wage and lower tobacco taxes.

David Leyonhjelm will defer to Bob Day on any industrial relations issues.

Bob Day will take David Leyonhjelm's advice on agriculture.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on the Liberal Democratic Party is available [here](#).