

## One Nation policy brief

April 2017

Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party (One Nation) is a minority political party with a presence in the Australian Senate, the Queensland Legislative Assembly and the Western Australian Legislative Council. Pauline Hanson is the National Chairman and Leader.

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### Recent election performance

The recent WA state election in March 2017 was considered a key test of One Nation's current electoral popularity.

Overall, One Nation polled 4.9% of the state vote in the Legislative Assembly, and an average of 8.5% in the 35 seats it contested. One Nation's highest result in was a 13% primary vote in the rural seat of Moore, but One Nation was unsuccessful in gaining a Lower House seat.

In the Legislative Council, One Nation received 8.19% of the state-wide vote, and gained three Upper House seats: in the South West, Eastern Metropolitan and Mines and Pastoral regions.

One Nation's 8.5% primary vote result in contested seats was consistent with the pre-election polling days out from the election, but below the primary vote expected of One Nation in the weeks leading up to the vote which was up to 13%.

The drop in popularity of One Nation's vote in the lead up to the election is being attributed to high profile preference deal with the Barnett-led Liberal Party and controversial statements made by Ms Hanson during the week she spent in WA in the week prior to the election on support for Putin, immunisation, foreign policy, and GST distribution. Several candidates withdrew from One Nation



claiming that they would not support a vote for the Liberal Party. Hanson sacked long time convenors who promptly launched a law suit.

#### Previous election results

Senator Hanson's One Nation gained 4 seats in the Federal Senate at the 2016 Election, with a primary vote of 4.3%. One Nation currently holds one seat in the Queensland State Parliament, following the defection of former Liberal MP Steve Dickson. One National historically polls highest in Queensland, Hanson's home state, with a primary vote of up to 23% and a haul of 11 seats in the 1998 State Election.

#### **Key policy principles**

One Nation has released a suite of key policy principles including:

##### The economy and jobs

- One Nation believes in the reindustrialisation of the Australian economy and driving training and re-training opportunities.
- One Nation supports the return of a publically run and owned bank.
- One Nation is strongly opposed to asset sales and supports the return of assets to public ownership.
- One Nation will not recognise any international trade agreement or treaty which is considered to be in breach of the Australian Constitution in favour of international law. It will also withdraw from international treaties and agreements that it believes have harmed our manufacturing industry.
- One Nation believes in protecting the primary industries sector from de-regulation and in withdrawing from international treaties and agreements which it believes has hurt the sector.
- One Nation have outlined their commitment to the following reforms to the taxation system:
  - Advocating for the abolishment of state pay roll tax;
  - Making multinationals pay their fair share of tax here in Australia;
  - A full review of the taxation system to ensure fairness;
  - Allowing young Australians access their superannuation fund as a house purchase deposit; and
  - Reform of youth allowance eligibility criteria.

##### Roads and infrastructure

- One Nation believes in investment in infrastructure as a measure of boosting apprenticeship rates.



## Climate Change and Energy

- One nation is opposed to market based measures that put a price on carbon. Their climate change policies include:
  - Opposing any measures that put a tax on carbon dioxide, specifically an Emissions Trading Scheme;
  - Cancelling international agreements and obligations that require Australian investment in foreign climate action;
  - Ensuring that all environmental impact assessments are based on 'scientific evidence';
  - Abolishing the Renewable Energy Target (RET);
  - Abolishing public financial incentives and subsidies for the renewable energy sector;
  - Holding a Royal Commission into the corruption of climate science;
  - Establishing an Independent science body that will report to the Government instead of the United Nations;
  - Reviewing the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO to ensure independence; and
  - Forcing the wind industry to compensate residents suffering from Wind Turbine Syndrome or whose house price has been negatively affected by wind farms.
  
- One Nation believes in building dams and opposes the privation of water supplies and CSG and mining exploration on prime agricultural land.

## Agriculture

- One Nation believes in strict food labelling laws which it expects to support Australian primary producers.

## Education

- The key element of One Nation's policy on the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector includes government paying 75 per cent of first year apprenticeship wages, 50 per cent of second year wages and 25 per cent of third year wages.
  
- One Nation opposes the privatisation of the higher education sector (universities).

## Social policies

Some of the One Nation's social policies include:

- Increasing the aged pension;
- Support for euthanasia;
- Abolishment of the Family Court with a Family Tribunal;
- A national identity card for asylum seekers/new residents wanting to access government services;
- Zero net immigration;



- Trialing the legalisation of medicinal cannabis for health benefits;
- A marriage equality referendum;
- The introduction of Citizens Initiated Referenda;
- Amending citizenship and social security laws to include New Zealand citizens under specific circumstances;
- Anti-Islam: One Nation opposes Islam; Sharia Law and Halal certification; and would ban the Burqa from being worn in public. It opposes the construction of mosques and Islamic schools and it wants a Royal Commission into the religion; and
- Reform of politicians' entitlements and the electoral system.

The full list of One Nation policies is available [here](#).

### **Pauline Hanson**

Ms Hanson was first elected as the House of Representatives Independent (and later One Nation) Member for Oxley at the 1996 federal election. She was initially preselected by the Liberal Party but was disendorsed prior to the poll. Ms Hanson held this position until the 1998 federal election.

In 1997 she started One Nation and the party won eleven seats at the 1998 Queensland election, however failed to win any seats at the 1998 federal election.

In 2002 Ms Hanson was expelled from One Nation.

She returned to the leadership of One Nation in 2014 and contested the 2016 as one of the party's Queensland Senate candidates.

Prior to her time in federal Parliament, Ms Hanson was an Ipswich City Councillor and owned a small business (takeaway shop). Throughout her career she has unsuccessfully attempted to run at various Queensland and New South Wales state elections.

### **Other elected representatives**

Australian Parliament:

WA Federal Senator Peter Georgiou

On Friday 10 March 2017 the High Court, sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns, found via recount that Peter Georgiou, as the next electable candidate, would fill the senate vacancy that was left by Rod Culleton due to his ineligibility (he was convicted of an offence that made him ineligible to be a Senator at the time of his election). Prior to entering politics, Peter ran a small electrical contracting business for 16 years.



QLD Federal Senator Malcolm Roberts

Roberts spent his career working in the mining sector, primarily as an engineer. He was elected at the 2016 Federal Election.

NSW Federal Senator Brian Burston

Burston was a Councillor of Cessnock City Council for twelve years, including a term as deputy mayor. Burston spent three years as a parliamentary advisor in NSW prior to his election. He was elected at the 2016 Federal Election.

Queensland State Parliament:

QLD MLA Steve Dickson

Dickson is the MLA for Buderim in the Queensland State Parliament. Elected as a member of the Liberal Party in 2006, he defected to join One Nation in January 2017, becoming their leader in Queensland.

WA State Parliament:

WA MLC Colin Tincknell

Tincknell was elected as MLC for the South West region. He will serve as the leader of the One Nation voting bloc in the WA Upper House. Tincknell is a former WAFL footballer and former corporate social responsibility manager for several mining companies.

WA MLC Robin David Scott

Scott was elected as MLC for the Mining and Pastoral region. Scott previously ran as a candidate for One Nation in the seat of Kalgoorlie at the 2001 and 2004 federal elections.

WA MLC Charles Smith

Smith was elected as MLC for the Eastern Metropolitan region. Smith was formerly a police officer, as well as a bureaucrat in the Department of Mines and Petroleum.

**Further information**

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