

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PETITIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT No. 13

Petitions

and

Ministerial Responses

14 August 2017

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Chair	Mrs Lucy Wicks MP
Deputy Chair	Hon Justine Elliot MP
	Mr Russell Broadbent MP
	Mr Scott Buchholz MP
	Mr Steve Georganas MP
	Mr Ben Morton MP
	Mr Ken O'Dowd MP

Report relating to the consideration of petitions and matters relating to the petitions system

The committee met in private session on Wednesday 24 May, Wednesday 31 May, Wednesday 14 June, Wednesday 21 June, and Wednesday 9 August 2017.

1. The committee resolved to present the following petition in accordance with standing order 207:

From 2215 petitioners – requesting restoration of the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits scheme and changes to the Act **(PN0063)**

From 9858 petitioners – requesting an end to the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners **(PN0064)**

From 27 petitioners – requesting the restoration of funding cuts to foreign aid **(PN0065)**

From 711 petitioners – requesting that taxpayer funds not be provided to the Adani company **(PN0066)**

From 639 petitioners – requesting the House refuse Adani’s requests for publicly funded subsidies **(PN0068)**

From 3877 petitioners – requesting changes to Australia’s refugee resettlement policies **(PN0069)**

From 24 petitioners – requesting changes to Australia’s refugee resettlement and processing policies **(PN0070)**

From 1 petitioner – requesting the House explain certain circumstances around funding for Bass Strait as a National Highway **(PN0073)**

From 22 petitioners – requesting the House work toward proposed changes to citizenship requirements in a non-partisan way **(EN0213)**

From 7 petitioners – requesting a ban on advertising that refers to sexual diseases **(EN0214)**

From 3 petitioners – requesting the approval of a plan for the removal of a bat colony in Murrurundi **(EN0215)**

From 3 petitioners – requesting an option of having childcare costs deducted from pre-tax salaries **(EN0216)**

From 668 petitioners – requesting the House assist in the release of certain citizens from illegal detention in China **(EN0219)**

From 8 petitioners – requesting the House implement drug and alcohol testing for Members of Parliament **(EN0221)**

From 952 petitioners – requesting that changes to citizenship eligibility apply to new entrants to Australia only **(EN0224)**

From 17 petitioners – requesting the introduction of legislation to ensure 0.7% of the gross national income is dedicated to official development assistance **(EN0225)**

From 102 petitioners – requesting continued access to higher education subsidies for Australian residents and New Zealand Citizens **(EN0226)**

From 22 petitioners – requesting that all persons who have breached the Australian Constitution repay all monies received for salary and expenses **(EN0229)**

From 7 petitioners – requesting an audit of compliance of S44 of the Australian Constitution **(EN0230)**

From 47 petitioners – requesting the establishment of a national corruption watchdog **(EN0233)**

From 26 petitioners – requesting the House to ensure the safety of Julian Assange and to prevent unlawful extradition to the United States **(EN0234)**

From 46 petitioners – requesting the House convict and deport persons enforcing Sharia Law **(EN0235)**

From 5 petitioners – requesting equal treatment of all people regardless of race, heritage or religion **(EN0236)**

From 5118 petitioners – requesting the House oppose changes to citizenship legislation **(EN0237)**

From 43 petitioners – requesting a ban on the use of plastic **(EN0238)**

From 14 petitioners – requesting an audit of compliance of S44 of the Australian Constitution **(EN0239)**

From 330 petitioners – requesting that the House not introduce a cashless debit card to the welfare recipients in Hinkler **(EN0240)**

From 2803 petitioners – requesting investigation into the taxation treatment of veteran’s invalidity benefits **(EN0242)**

From 12 petitioners – requesting a Royal Commission into elder abuse **(EN0243)**

From 2419 petitioners – requesting an acknowledgement that quality NBN provision is necessary and to complete the rollout in accordance with the original plan **(EN0246)**

From 11 petitioners – requesting an increase to the aged pension **(EN0247)**

From 2 petitioners – requesting consideration of trade sanctions to encourage the United States to take climate change seriously **(EN0254)**

From 11 petitioners – requesting the House to establish a memorial for victims of terrorism **(EN0255)**

From 105 petitioners – requesting the trial for the mandatory drug testing of welfare recipients be rejected **(EN0256)**

From 62 petitioners – requesting various actions against the Wahabi faith **(EN0260)**

From 118 petitioners – requesting politicians disclose negatively geared property ownership **(EN0261)**

From 3102 petitioners – requesting Australia withdraw from the Paris Climate Change Agreement **(EN0264)**

From 29 petitioners – requesting the House adopt a code of conduct for Parliamentarians **(EN0265)**

From 17 petitioners – requesting the mandate of solar panels and battery storage on residential properties prior to sale **(EN0266)**

From 12 petitioners – regarding the regulation of child gambling **(EN0267)**

From 1127 petitioners – requesting veteran Gold Cards be extended to nurses and other medical staff that volunteered during the Vietnam War **(EN0269)**

From 220 petitioners – requesting the House cease accepting UNHCR refugees **(EN0271)**

The following ministerial responses to petitions were received:

From the Minister for Foreign Affairs – to a petition concerning the formal recognition of the State of Palestine **(PN0025)**

From the Minister for Communications – to a petition regarding the prioritisation of the NBN rollout to premises served by the Ascot Exchange **(PN0056)**

From the Minister for Foreign Affairs – to a petition concerning the humanitarian crisis in Syria **(EN0093)**

From the Minister for Human Services – to a petition regarding the suspension of Centrelink’s online compliance system **(EN0098)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition concerning funding for community legal centres **(EN0128)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition regarding Caymans offshore accounts and section 44 of the Australian Constitution **(EN0130)**

From the Assistant Minister for Social Services – to a petition regarding a change to the terminology for disability and the disabled **(EN0147)**

From the Minister for Justice – to a petition regarding the criminalisation of ‘image-based sexual assault’ **(EN0169)**

The terms of the petitions and the responses will be recorded in Hansard.

Mrs Lucy Wicks MP

Chair - Petitions Committee