

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PETITIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT No. 19

Petitions

and

Ministerial Responses

30 November 2020

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Chair	Mr Ken O'Dowd MP
Deputy Chair	Hon Justine Elliot MP
	Mrs Bridget Archer MP
	Ms Lisa Chesters MP
	Ms Gladys Liu MP
	Mr Julian Simmonds MP
	Mr James Stevens MP
	Ms Susan Templeman MP

Report summarising the petitions and Ministerial responses being presented.

The committee met in private session on 7 October, 21 October 28 October and 11 November 2020.

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

Petitions certified on 7 October 2020

From 186 petitioners – regarding Australian Skilled Visas **(EN1886)**

Petitions certified on 21 October 2020

From 4 petitioners – regarding the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* application process **(EN1950)**

From 5 petitioners – requesting the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and the Special Broadcasting Service be privatised **(EN1955)**

From 3 petitioners – requesting a referendum for new coal power stations in Australia **(EN1957)**

From 191 petitioners – regarding Chinese virologist Dr. Li-meng Yan **(EN1958)**

From 8 petitioners – requesting Australia to sign the *Leaders' Pledge for Nature* **(EN1959)**

From 5 petitioners – requesting the establishment of misleading and deceptive conduct laws for politicians and their staffers **(EN1960)**

From 16,166 petitioners – requesting immediate family members of Australian citizens be granted travel exemptions to visit Australia **(EN1964)**

From 60 petitioners – regarding the *Legislation (Deferral of Sunsetting—Financial Transaction Reports Regulations) Certificate 2018* **(EN1966)**

From 20 petitioners – requesting a full childcare subsidy for all Australians **(EN1967)**

From 108 petitioners – requesting a Royal Commission into Australia’s news media **(EN1968)**

From 15 petitioners – regarding the establishment of a lithium-ion battery return program **(EN1974)**

From 3 petitioners – requesting a referendum for new coal power stations in Australia **(EN1975)**

From 2 petitioners – regarding the National Disability Insurance Scheme **(EN1976)**

From 26 petitioners – requesting a temporary extension for the Visitor Visa (subclass 600) until the COVID-19 pandemic ends **(EN1978)**

From 516 petitioners – requesting a Royal Commission into Australia’s news media **(EN1980)**

From 217 petitioners – regarding an independent federal anti-corruption watchdog **(EN1982)**

From 19 petitioners – requesting a stop to the anti-smoking campaign aimed at requiring smokers to have a prescription to purchase cigarettes **(EN1984)**

From 39 petitioners – requesting a stop to the annual increase in the cost of cigarette packs **(EN1987)**

From 646 petitioners – regarding the caps on the numbers of travelers coming into Australia and quarantine measures **(EN1988)**

From 133 petitioners – requesting postcode 4280 be included in the Mobile Blackspot Program **(EN1991)**

From 471 petitioners – regarding the internet and phone reception within the Woorinen district **(EN1993)**

From 347 petitioners – regarding visa extensions and residency pathways for stranded temporary residents during COVID-19 **(EN1994)**

Petitions certified on 28 October 2020

From 4 petitioners – requesting a progressive procreation tax **(EN1995)**

From 2 petitioners – requesting an increase in foreign aid for family planning organisations **(EN1996)**

From 13 petitioners – requesting in-game video game purchasing be included in the *Interactive Gambling Act 2001* **(EN1997)**

From 127 petitioners – regarding the *Extradition Act 1988* **(EN2000)**

From 9 petitioners – requesting a Royal Commission into the ratio of public to private entities in Australia **(EN2001)**

From 34 petitioners – regarding climate change and the lowering of Australia’s emissions **(EN2002)**

From 13 petitioners – regarding the monitoring and regulation of harmful social media activity **(EN2003)**

From 44 petitioners – requesting the condemnation of police brutality and martial law in Thailand **(EN2005)**

From 19 petitioners – requesting an end to fossil fuels and the implementation of a universal basic income **(EN2007)**

From 1 petitioner – requesting the public service be moved from Canberra to other Australian states **(EN2008)**

From 19 petitioners – regarding the power of state and territory governments in Australia **(EN2009)**

From 5 petitioners – regarding Members of Parliament changing their political party **(EN2011)**

From 247 petitioners – requesting a ban on all toxic non-biodegradable plastics in Australia **(EN2014)**

From 17 petitioners – regarding the Medicare gap payment process for medical practices **(EN2017)**

From 143 petitioners – regarding the drafting of the proposed federal anti-corruption commission **(EN2019)**

From 45 petitioners – regarding commercial organ transplantation and organ tourism to China **(EN2020)**

From 133 petitioners – requesting a Royal Commission into corruption within the Department of Home Affairs **(EN2022)**

From 8 petitioners – requesting the Australian government impose sanctions against the Nigerian Government and officials **(EN2023)**

From 49 petitioners – requesting mandatory psychological assessments for Australian Prime Ministers **(EN2024)**

From 29 petitioners – requesting the Australian government to impose sanctions against the Nigerian Government and officials **(EN2025)**

The following ministerial responses to petitions were received:

Ministerial responses considered on 11 November 2020

From the Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government – to a petition regarding mobile phone reception in Repton, NSW **(PN0476)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition requesting that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill 2019 is passed **(EN1144)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition requesting the establishment of a bill of rights **(EN1264)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition requesting that Australia seek to insert Harry and Meghan, Duke and Duchess of Sussex as its King and Queen **(EN1314)**

From the Attorney-General - to a petition regarding the risks to the integrity of Australian democracy and accountability regarding the exercise of executive powers and spending of public money during COVID-19 **(EN1482)**

From the Minister for Education – to 36 petitions regarding the Literacy and Numeracy Test for Initial Teacher Education Students **(EN1559, EN1568, EN1631, EN1561, EN1590, EN1547, EN1630, EN1560, EN1574, EN1549, EN1625, EN1636, EN1558, EN1593, EN1626, EN1566, EN1596, EN1546, EN1554, EN1629, EN1544, EN1632, EN1624, EN1579, EN1550, EN1562,**

EN1628, EN1572, EN1545, EN1548, EN1569, EN1635, EN1571, EN1553, EN1570, EN1580)

From the Minister for Families and Social Services – to a petition regarding the social security deeming rates **(EN1573)**

From the Minister for Home Affairs – to a petition regarding temporary visa holders seeking exemptions from Australia’s travel restrictions **(EN1581)**

From the Minister for Families and Social Services – to a petition regarding the Age Pension age **(EN1584)**

From the Minister for Education – to a petition regarding the support child care provides to Australian families **(EN1585)**

From the Minister for Home Affairs – to a petition regarding parents of Australian citizens and permanent residents seeking exemption from Australia’s travel restrictions **(EN1591)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition regarding an inquiry into the protections available to casual employees under the unfair dismissal provisions of the Fair Work Act 2009 **(EN1597)**

From the Minister for Home Affairs – to a petition regarding the use of facial recognition technology in Australia **(EN1600)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition regarding parenting arrangements after family relationship breakdown and the collection of child support
(EN1605)

From the Minister for Education – to a petition requesting all teachers to be trained to support students with mental health issues **(EN1613)**

From the Minister for Education – to a petition regarding the Job-ready Graduates package **(EN1665)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition requesting the reinstatement of Medicare benefits for abdominoplasty for post-partum women **(EN1751)**

Mr Ken O’Dowd

Chair – Petitions Committee