

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PETITIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT No. 8

Petitions

and

Ministerial Responses

20 March 2017

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Chair	Mr Ross Vasta 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 8 February 2017, Wednesday 15 February 2017, and Wednesday 1 March 2017.

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

From 464 petitioners – calling for an end to the detention of Julian Assange **(PN0054)**

From 6 petitioners – calling for a reversal of the decision to block certain copyright-infringing websites **(EN0091)**

From 4 petitioners – calling for the Federal Government to take renewed steps to intervene in the Syria conflict **(EN0093)**

From 4 petitioners – calling for a change of the national anthem to ‘Hey Ya’ by Outkast **(EN0094)**

From 13 petitioners – requesting that the House acknowledge inconsistencies between Centrelink debt recovery and claims of fraud, and for legislation to be introduced to recover debt from guilty persons **(EN0103)**

From 10 petitioners – calling for the resumption of financial support for school aged children **(EN0109)**

From 46 petitioners - calling for an amendment to the legislation governing parliamentary expenses **(EN0110)**

From 2 petitioners – calling for legislation that prevents companies from selling contact information of persons who have appeared on their mailing lists **(EN0114)**

From 3 petitioners – calling for aid, support and repatriation for those who have been dispossessed by racial and religious discrimination with special recent regard to the dispossessed of America **(EN0115)**

From 8 petitioners – requesting recognition of the importance of agriculture, and calling on the Federal Government to reject the Department of Defence’s compulsory acquisition strategy **(EN0116)**

From 2 petitioners – calling for the Australian Government to publicly adopt the same stance as Angela Merkel regarding co-operation with the United States **(EN0117)**

From 21 petitioners – calling for the House to lower the voting age to 16 **(EN0119)**

From 636 petitioners – calling for the Government to provide Medicare rebates for consultations and Irlen Spectral Filters **(EN0120)**

From 12 petitioners – requesting that Donald Trump only be allowed to enter Australia in his capacity as head of US Government and not to be invited to make an official state visit **(EN0123)**

From 5 petitioners – calling for the House to move a motion rejecting the targeting of person(s) in the style of Donald Trump’s policy **(EN0124)**

From 144 petitioners – requesting the issue of a formal awareness declaring a day for people living with chromosome variations **(EN0125)**

From 73 petitioners – requesting that the House work towards a just transition from coal and coal gas to renewable energy; ensure that the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions becomes a priority; and engage Indigenous knowledge in formulating sustainable development policies **(EN0127)**

From 711 petitioners – calling for the Federal Government to reverse proposed funding cuts to community legal centres **(EN0128)**

From 9 petitioners – calling for life sentences for conviction of rape charges involving a minor **(EN0129)**

From 10 petitioners – requesting the House determine if Members of Parliament can own or purchase zero taxation offshore accounts from the Cayman Islands with regards to S44 of the Constitution **(EN0130)**

From 16 petitioners - calling for the reduction of the gender pay gap in Australia by making changes to the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012 **(EN0131)**

From 11 petitioners – requesting that the House act on the Australian Government’s inaction on climate change and global warming **(EN0132)**

From 15 petitioners – requesting evidence based benefits to any proposed cuts to homeless services, affordable housing, crisis accommodation, outreach programs and support for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence **(EN0136)**

The following ministerial responses to petitions were received:

From the Minister for Employment – to a petition regarding strategies to address violence against women **(1156/1664)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition regarding cancer treatment in Parkes **(PN0007)**

From the Minister for Foreign Affairs – to a petition regarding child labour in the cocoa industry **(PN0041)**

From the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources – to a petition regarding the rights of commercial fishers **(PN0022)**

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ross Vasta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Mr Ross Vasta MP

Chair - Petitions Committee