

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PETITIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT No. 23

Petitions

and

Ministerial Responses

21 May 2018

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 14 February 2018, 28 March 2018 and 9 May 2018.

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

From 659 petitioners – requesting protection of the Great Sandy Strait Wetlands and the Great Barrier Reef **(PN0342)**

From 72 petitioners – regarding the Rohingya refugees in Myanmar **(PN0344)**

From 113 petitioners – regarding the relocation of asylum seekers on Manus Island to Australia **(PN0346)**

From 225 petitioners – requesting protection of the Great Sandy Strait Wetlands and the Great Barrier Reef **(EN0487)**

From 104,185 petitioners – requesting the removal of the GST from women's sanitary products **(EN0494)**

From 42 petitioners – requesting a change to income testing for partnered couples with regard to child care fees **(EN0495)**

From 28 petitioners – regarding diversion of funding from Indigenous Business Australia to Indigenous community driven enterprises **(EN0497)**

From 97 petitioners – regarding recovery of monies spent on legal defence for Members and Senators ruled ineligible for election to the Australian Parliament **(EN0498)**

From 30 petitioners – regarding adding “none of the above” as an option on federal election ballot papers **(EN0501)**

From 9 petitioners – that petitions receiving 10,000 or more signatures be scheduled for debate in the House **(EN0503)**

From 4 petitioners – requesting that all legislation clearly identifies the head of power used to underpin Acts **(EN0504)**

From 4 petitioners – requesting that the crown be added above the federation star, to the current Australian Coat of Arms **(EN0505)**

From 49 petitioners – regarding the resettlement of asylum seekers in Australia **(EN0507)**

From 31 petitioners – regarding Australian citizenship requirements **(EN0508)**

From 47 petitioners – requesting that Australian citizens be eligible to enrol in the “Global Entry” program run by the US Department of Homeland Security **(EN0511)**

From 10,097 petitioners – requesting that Australia recognise the Republic of Macedonia by its historical and constitutional name rather than the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia **(EN0512)**

From 3556 petitioners – regarding changes to the Australian National Bowel Screening Program **(EN0513)**

From 198 petitioners – requesting more education for schools about the effects of bullying **(EN0518)**

From 61 petitioners – requesting that seafood be labelled with country of origin information **(EN0523)**

From 74 petitioners – requesting that Australia recognise the Republic of Macedonia by its historical and constitutional name rather than the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia **(EN0524)**

From 2745 petitioners – requesting that Australia retain the use of the name the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as per the United Nations Agreement **(EN0525)**

From 30 petitioners – requesting the removal of the GST from women’s sanitary products **(EN0526)**

From 5 petitioners – regarding legislation to encourage companies to enable staff to work from home **(EN0527)**

From 5 petitioners – regarding amending Section 44 of the Australian Constitution to allow Members of Parliament to have multiple citizenships **(EN0528)**

From 86 petitioners – requesting a portion of Australia’s foreign aid budget be given to Australian Deductible Gift Recipient charities working to help Australians only **(EN0531)**

From 17 petitioners – requesting that visa applications by South African nationals facing persecution be fast-tracked **(EN0535)**

From 12 petitioners – requesting the removal of the GST from women’s sanitary products **(EN0536)**

From 16 petitioners requesting that Australia express its disapproval of actions by the Turkish military against the Kurdish people **(EN0539)**

From 13 petitioners – regarding Australia’s asylum seeker policy **(EN0540)**

From 3 petitioners – regarding permanent residency and amendments to 457 visas **(EN0547)**

From 27 petitioners – regarding data collection practices and privacy policy in Australia **(EN0548)**

The following ministerial responses to petitions were received:

From the Minister for Health – to a petition regarding old and obsolete diagnostic imaging equipment **(EN0070)**

From the Minister for Defence – to a petition regarding making Australia a zero violence country and banning the Army **(EN0079)**

From the Special Minister of State – to a petition regarding payments to former Members of Parliament **(EN0096)**

From the Special Minister of State – to a petition regarding Parliamentary entitlements of Members **(EN0110)**

From the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner – to a petition regarding companies selling personal information from their mailing lists **(EN0114)**

From the Minister for the Environment and Energy – to a petition regarding emissions reduction and renewable energy **(EN0127)**

From the Minister for Finance – to a petition regarding removal of the tax-exempt status of the Catholic Church in Australia **(EN0138)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition requesting the decriminalisation of cannabis in Australia **(EN0153)**

From the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport – to a petition regarding arrangements for airline passengers to opt out of a body scan and undergo an alternative screening method **(EN0158)**

From the Minister for Employment – to a petition requesting that all APS salary/packages be made public **(EN0174)**

From the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport – to a petition requesting that the Augusta Highway in South Australia be made a dual carriageway **(EN0179)**

From the Minister for the Environment and Energy – to a petition regarding household solar panel and battery storage installation **(EN0266)**

From the Minister for Defence – to a petition regarding the ANZUS Treaty **(EN0329)**

From the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection – to a petition regarding Australia’s asylum seeker policy **(EN0346)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition requesting the fast-tracking of funding arrangements for Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AATD) therapies **(EN0364)**

From the Minister for Home Affairs – to a petition regarding publication of the personal addresses of registered child sex offenders **(EN0366)**

From the Minister for Law Enforcement and Cyber Security – to a petition regarding the importation of Airsoft firearms **(EN0367)**

From the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources – to a petition regarding private shipping of infant formula overseas **(EN0368)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition regarding the cost and treatment available for patients with medically unexplained physical symptoms (MUPS) **(EN0382)**

From the Minister for Education and Training – to a petition regarding the Safe Schools Coalition Australia program and proposed national safety classifications on content delivered in Australian schools **(EN0384 and EN0395)**

From the Minister for Revenue and Financial Services – to a petition regarding insurance premiums in Northern Australia **(EN0389)**

From the Minister for Social Services – to a petition requesting changes to child support policy **(EN0391)**

From the Minister for Urban Infrastructure and Cities – to a petition requesting an inquiry into the recreational vehicle (RV) industry in Australia **(EN0400)**

From the Minister for Education and Training – to a petition regarding the Safe Schools Coalition Australia (SSCA) program **(EN0409 and EN0437)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition regarding who was legally able to be elected for the 45th Australian Parliament **(EN0412)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition regarding proof of citizenship status for all Australian politicians **(EN0415)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition regarding anti-discrimination legislation and same-sex marriage **(EN0417)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition regarding supply of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines at premises in East Victoria Park, WA **(EN0419)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition regarding the abolition of all State and Territory mental health Acts relating to involuntary treatment for mental illness **(EN0422)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition regarding the Australia Act 1986 (UK) and its interaction with the Commonwealth of Australia's independence **(EN0424)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition regarding the status and powers of the Crown in Australia **(EN0425)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition regarding free influenza vaccines for children **(EN0435)**

From the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection – to a petition regarding Australia's regional processing arrangements **(EN0456)**

From the Speaker – to a petition regarding reading the Lord's Prayer at the beginning of each sitting day **(EN0484)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition regarding Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome **(EN0491)**

From the Minister for Communications– Bulk response to petitions requesting amendments to the Interactive Gambling Act 2001

(PN0158, PN0159, PN0160, PN0180, PN0181, PN0182, PN0183, PN0184, PN0185, PN0186, PN0187, PN0188, PN0189, PN0195, PN0196, PN0197, PN0198, PN0199, PN0203, PN0208, PN0209, PN0211, PN0215, PN0216, PN0217, PN0218, PN0219, PN0220, PN0223, PN0224, PN0225, PN0226, PN0231, PN0232, PN0233, PN0234, PN0235, PN0236, PN0238, PN0240, PN0241, PN0242, PN0244, PN0245, PN0246, PN0247, PN0254, PN0264, PN0265, PN0266, PN0267, PN0269, PN0270, PN0272, PN0273)

From the Minister for Communications– Bulk response to petitions requesting amendments to the Interactive Gambling Act 2001

(PN0279, PN0284, PN0285, PN0286, PN0289, PN0290, PN0291, PN0292, PN0294, PN0299, PN0302, PN0222, PN0230, PN0303, PN0304, PN0305, PN0306, PN0324)

From the Minister for Regional Development – to a petition regarding funding for the Great River Road project in the Shire of Towong, Victoria **(PN0015)**

From the Minister for Health and Aged Care – to a petition regarding funding for Andrology Australia **(PN0016)**

From the Minister for Health– to a petition requesting the supply of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines at premises in Fletcher, NSW **(PN0030)**

From the Minister for Education and Training– to a petition regarding the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) and the Disability Support Program (DSP) **(PN0059)**

From the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport – to a petition regarding road safety improvements to the Bass Highway, Tasmania **(PN0061)**

From the Minister for Health– to a petition regarding fast tracking funding arrangements for Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AATD) therapies **(PN0087)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition regarding dental treatment under Medicare **(PN0108)**

From the Minister for Communications – to a petition requesting that the minimum age on social media platforms be raised from over thirteen to over fifteen years of age **(PN0154)**

From the Minister for Health – to a petition regarding increasing the minimum age of purchase for tobacco products in Australia **(PN0190)**

From the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport – to a petition regarding the Inland Rail corridor between the Queensland border and Gowrie **(PN0201)**

From the Minister for Defence – to a petition regarding the proposed sale of Bulimba Barracks in Queensland **(PN0212)**

From the Minister for Small and Family Business, the Workplace and Deregulation– to a petition regarding penalty rates **(PN0213)**

From the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia – to a petition regarding funding via the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) to the Adani mine’s North Galilee Basin Rail Project **(PN0214)**

From the Minister for Defence– to a petition regarding the proposed sale of Bulimba Barracks in Queensland **(PN0227)**

From the Minister for Communications – to a petition from the Residents of Berkshire Park, NSW requesting that their local Post Office be the Llandilo Post Office **(PN0274)**

From the Attorney-General – to a petition requesting amendments to the Marriage Act 1961 to enable same-sex marriage **(PN0276)**

From the Minister the Environment and Energy – to a petition regarding the Adani Coal Mine and rail project in the Galilee Basin, Queensland **(PN0293)**

From the Minister for Home Affairs – to a petition regarding the Australian Government’s regional processing and resettlement arrangements **(PN0296)**

From the Assistant Minister to the Treasurer – to a petition regarding the redefinition of religion by the Australian Bureau of Statistics **(PN0300)**

From the Assistant Minister to the Treasurer – to a petition regarding disendorsing Islam as a religion in the ABS Classification of Religious Groups **(PN0301)**

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

Mrs Lucy Wicks MP

Chair – Petitions Committee