



# Presidents Report 2019 -2020

The effects of the world wide Covid 19 pandemic have made 2019-20 a year like no other. Like everyone else ALP Abroad have had to adjust to social distancing and lockdowns, in our case making our normal activities like in person events and handing out how to votes impossible. We have utilised online campaigning and communicating virtually more will provides new opportunities in the year ahead.

Here are our 2019/20 highlights.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 we had a well attended Christmas Party in the Hope Hotel in Fitzrovia, London. A feature of these annual gatherings is that financial members have the opportunity to win one of the fabulous Aussie treats pictured opposite as well enjoy some Lamingtons. Covid 19 meant we did not have the normal events around visiting speakers including a major scheduled event with Julia Gillard on April 28<sup>th</sup>.



## ELECTIONS

Over the year Labor have had a great by election victory in the bell weather seat of Eden-Monaro, and the successful re-election of Labor governments in the Northern Territory, ACT and Queensland. ALP Abroad promoted voting Labor overseas online to Australians overseas for all these elections. In the case of Queensland which normally has overseas pre poll locations Covid 19 restrictions meant that pre-poll was replaced by vote by phone which we promoted online registration.

Looking forward to the year ahead ,there will be a West Australian election on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 and the earliest date for a simultaneous Federal election (half-Senate and House of Representatives) is Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021 so we need to campaign and promote voter enrolment for those elections.

## HELP FOR STRANDED AUSTRALIANS CAMPAIGN

There remain tens of thousands of Australians who are stranded overseas during the global COVID-19 pandemic – many are medically or financially vulnerable.

ALP Abroad has been working to support the Labor caucus team to put pressure on the Morrison government to help Australians who have been trying to get home since the outbreak of the pandemic but haven't been able to due to closed borders, cancelled flights, price gouging, or the Morrison Government's cap on international arrivals.

We have helped promote the petition signed by 10,000 Overseas Australians have signed Labor Petition calling on the Labor Morrison Government

- increase quarantine capacity to allow the number of arrivals under international flight caps to go up.
- Stop price gouging by airlines flying into Australia.
- Put all options on the table to repatriate stranded Australians, including charter flights and using the RAAF fleet.

If you have not signed you can do so here [www.alp.org.au/petitions/stranded-aussies/](http://www.alp.org.au/petitions/stranded-aussies/) and pass on individual issues [www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5890032/Stranded-Aussies-Get-Help](http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5890032/Stranded-Aussies-Get-Help)

## **ONLINE MEMBERSHIP**

ALP Abroad is a voluntary organisation of ALP supporters that helps Labor organise the overseas vote and is largely self funded though membership activities and events. Membership is the main source of income.

In April we upgraded our website for the first time since 2016 which has enabled people to join online. Previously people joined mostly by attending our London based events which they received free entry to as a reward of membership even though we have always had a strong network of global supporters who have helped in elections. With our online membership we now have people joining as financial members from around the world and with the type of technology we are using tonight to have mixture of online and in person events going forward.

A recommendation of this report is that we increase the number of no office holding executive members to allow for the increased participation from non UK based members.

## **THANKYOU**

I would like record my appreciation to the entire executive for their support in over the past year and for the following members who agreed to re-nominate Vice Presidents Nick James and Louise Scarce, Secretary Isaac Wright, and Treasurer Esther Hood, Mike Steele, Booth coordinator and Justin Ditton our campaign coordinator, and Executive members David Saunderson, Melanie Saunderson, Vanessa Picker and Roland McCabe.

I would also like to thank Executive members Andrew Harden, Kurt Hopkins and Martha Haylett who have not re-nominated this year for their contribution and lastly Angelo Sommariva for being our returning officer again this year.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the number of Executive Members be increased from 6 to 8.for 2020-21.