

ALP Abroad

Australian Labor's international supporters network



Presidents Report 2020 -2021

I am pleased to report that ALP Abroad is in an improved financial and membership position since our last AGM on November 29th 2020. This report sets out how our increased membership and fundraising strategy centred around our successful event with former Prime Minister Julia Gillard has placed ALP Abroad in strong position to fight the next Federal election expected by May. This report also includes our statement of accounts.

ONLINE EVENTS

Covid lockdown restricted our activities to online only for the first part of the year. In March, in person voting for the Western Australian state election was cancelled in London due to Covid. ALP Abroad provided information on our website and social media channels promoting how to vote by post for Labor.

Our online events included Janelle Saffin MP who is chair of Australian Labor international on June 1st and a discussion event on Pensions rights overseas on July 29th. We continued to support Labor's campaign for stranded Australians. The campaigns petition attracted over 10,000 signatures.

JULIA GILLARD EVENT

It was a great honour to welcome former Prime Minister Julia Gillard to our first in person event for 18 months on November 1st where she spoke on 'The World Post Covid'.



Julia Gillard at the Devereux November 1st with members of ALP Abroad

I would like to thank all the members of ALP Abroad who made the event a success, especially Vanessa Picker who escorted Ms Gillard and purchased the raffle prizes, our secretary Isaac Wright who utilised to our new Zettle card reader to sell £280 worth of raffle tickets, Louise Scarce for organising the photos and introducing our speaker, and to David Saunderson, Melanie Saunderson and Justin Ditton who helped on the door. We were also honoured to have ALP Abroad member Catherine West MP give the vote of thanks.

BUILDING A STRONG MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL POSITION

ALP Abroad is a voluntary organisation of ALP supporters that helps Labor organise the overseas vote and is largely self-funded through membership activities and events.

We decided to improve our channels of online membership and fundraising centred around our Julia Gillard event. We converted to the less expensive National ALP provider Magenta Line stripe based online membership and renewal system in May from PayPal at no additional cost. Our strategy of promotion of 12 months membership as entitling members to free access to all events including our Julia Gillard event resulted in the 53 financial members in the last year, up from 34 in 2020.

We also acquired a Zettle card reader for use at our events so we don't have to handle cash and set up an Eventbrite account for events. While these services have costs (especially Eventbrite!) it has increased our income and membership so we are in a strong position for both the South Australian election in March and the Federal election to be held May 2022 latest as set out below in our statement of accounts for the year.

Income item	Amount £	Expenditure item	Amount
Balance 29 Nov 2020	2343.32	Magenta Website hosting & support	371.75
PayPal membership	15.00	PayPal fees	0.74
Website membership fees	529.00	Stripe processing fees	15.77
Eventbrite membership fees	188.00	Eventbrite member processing fees	21.10
Eventbrite Guests fees	260.00	Eventbrite Guests processing fees	29.18
Raffle tickets Zettle	265.00	Zettle fees	4.75
Cash raffle tickets	15.00	Raffle prize books	67.54
		Zettle card reader purchase	22.80
		Christmas Party prizes	77.04
		Bank fees	5.00
Total income for year	3615.32	Total expenditure for year	615.67
Balance 28 Nov	2999.65		

THANKYOU

I would like record my appreciation to the entire executive for their support in over the past year including members who agreed to re-nominate; Vice President Nick James, Secretary Isaac Wright, Booth coordinator, Mike Steele, Justin Ditton, Campaign co-ordinator and Executive members Vanessa Picker, Justin Ditton, David Saunderson, Melanie Saunderson and Roland McCabe. I would also like to thank Vice President Louise Scarce, Treasurer Esther Hood, and Executive members Danielle Gadd, Clinton Barnes and Dermot Ryan who have not re-nominated this year for their contribution, and Angelo Sommariva for being our Returning Officer again this year.

Last Federal election ALP Abroad had 51 volunteers at Australia House staffing the booth which is largest polling station in Federal elections and in 15 other international centres. We are well placed to match and exceed that effort this election. The overseas vote has decided seats in the past and I urge you to become involved in an important election year.