

# SEVEN MONTHS THAT CHANGED AUSTRALIAN POLITICS

The role of people, preferences, policies, politics and  
power in Wentworth from October 2018- May 2019



# AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION 1999-2003



## ISSUES:

- Climate change and human health
- Refugee children in detention
- Preparedness for bioterrorism
- Physician assisted dying
- Gender and sexuality

# MARRIAGE EQUALITY 1998-2017





# THE WENTWORTH BY-ELECTION





# ROLE OF PEOPLE





# PREFERENCES

Independents are likely to need preferences, because it is a high bar to get over 50% + 1 vote on first preferences.

In the Wentworth by-election we were tapping into the deep anger at Malcolm Turnbull's ousting, and the deep vein of dissatisfaction with the apparent lurch of the Liberal party to the Right.

Initial response was "PUT THE LIBERALS LAST"

Then "NOOOOO! It's a Liberal heartland seat!

PRESS CONFERENCE "AMBUSH" to "RIP OFF THE BANDAID" and announce preferencing Liberals.

Then the realization that as a true independent, you can't allocate preferences.





# SUPPORT OF OTHER INDEPENDENTS



# POLICIES

Climate change

Oceans (oil, plastic)

Integrity commission

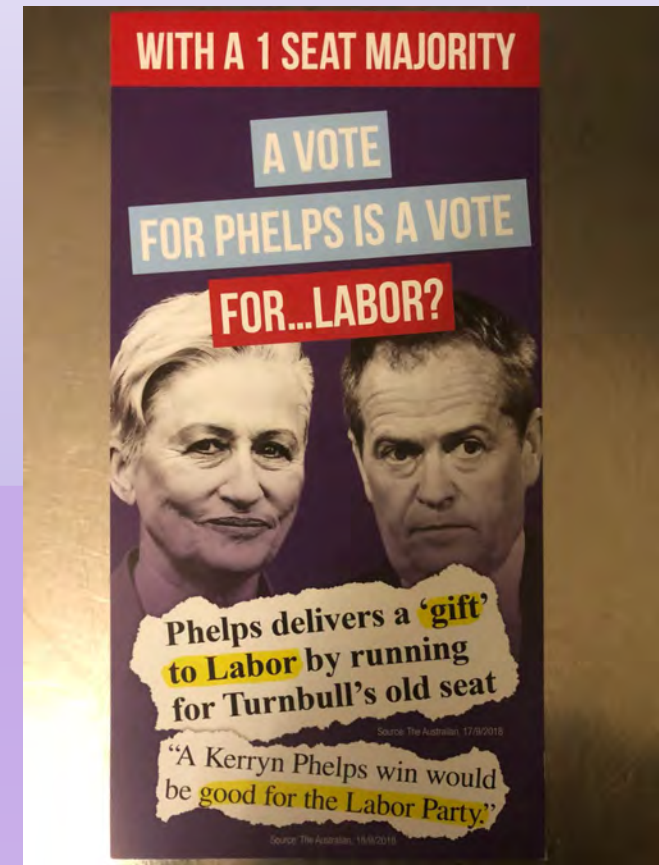
#KidsOff Nauru

Indefinite offshore detention

ABC funding

Live sheep exports

Labor/Bill Shorten





26 NOVEMBER 2018



## Kerryn Phelps calls for 'compassionate compromise' in maiden speech



Kerryn Phelps during her maiden speech in parliament.  
Picture: Gary Ramage

By ROSIE LEWIS



# POLITICS

## Balance of power vs power of balance





# WHY DID WE NEED MEDEVAC?

Australia's policy of indefinite offshore detention for people attempting to arrive, by boat, 19 July 2013.

Urgent humanitarian health crisis  
Children with traumatic withdrawal syndrome

12 people had died in offshore detention

Medical transfers obstructed, achieved only through legal action

2016: Coroner recommended changes after Hamid Khazaei death



27 NOVEMBER 2018

## Morrison government threatens mass referrals to High Court if Parliament moves on Dutton



The government could refer Kerryn Phelps to the High Court a day after her maiden speech. *Photo: Getty*

- Julia Banks leaves the Liberal Party and joins the crossbench.
- Minority government.
- Balance of power situation.





# MEDVAC CENTRAL



# MEDEVAC





# BILL PASSES BOTH HOUSES BY ONE VOTE

6 December 2019: passed by one vote in Senate

12 Feb 2019: Consideration of Senate message

House agreed to Senate amendments with further amendments.

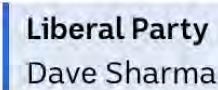
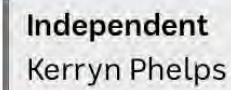
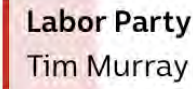

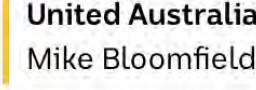
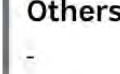


# FEDERAL ELECTION MAY 2019



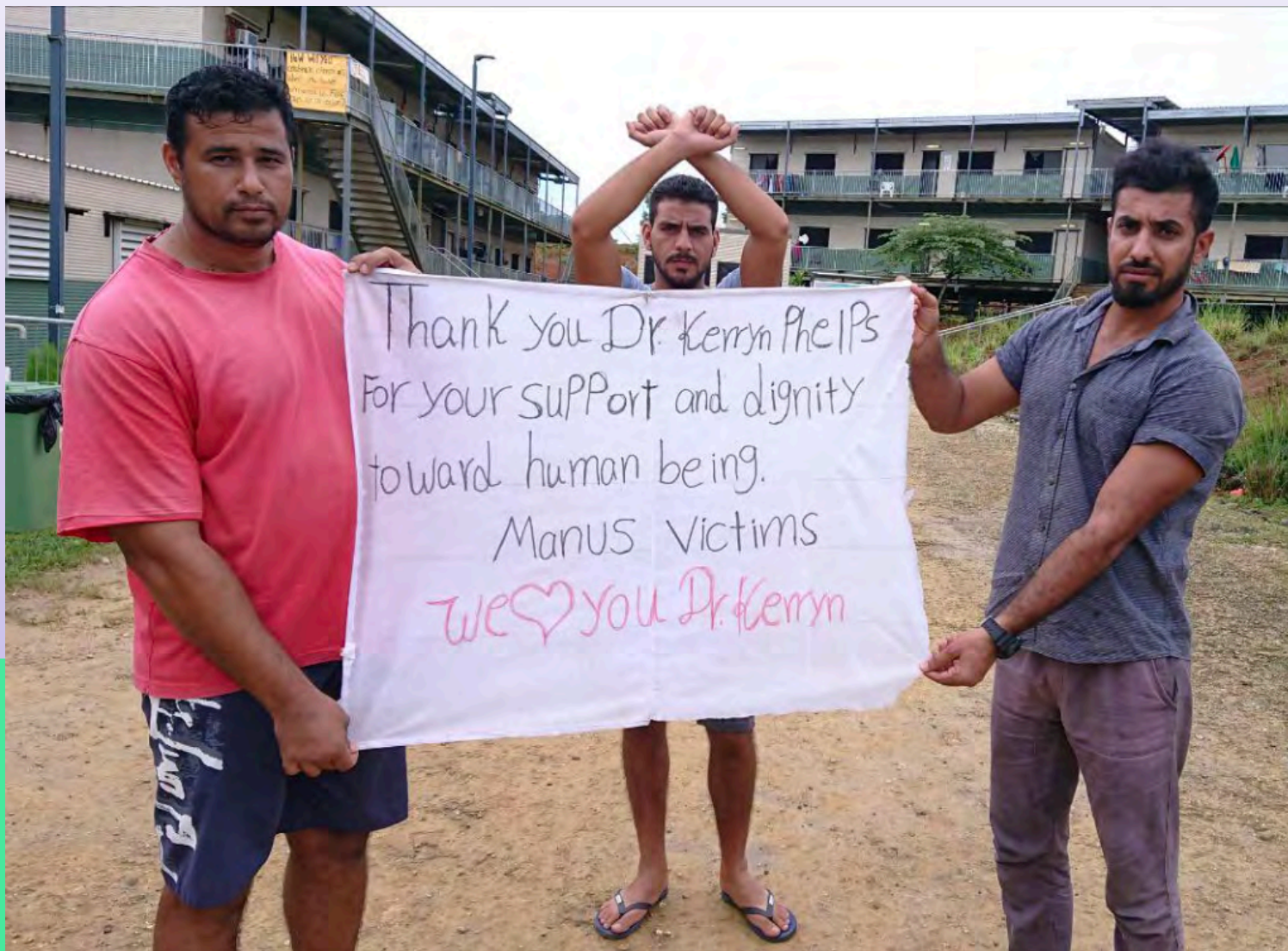
	<b>Liberal</b> Dave Sharma	<b>51.3%</b> 46,050 SWING: -16.4%
	<b>Independent</b> Kerryn Phelps MP	<b>48.7%</b> 43,704 SWING: +16.4%

- Previously held by IND with margin of 1.2%.
- Dave Sharma returns to win after by-election defeat.

First preference		Vote
	<b>Liberal Party</b> Dave Sharma	<b>47.4%</b> 42,575 SWING: -14.8%
	<b>Independent</b> Kerryn Phelps	<b>32.4%</b> 29,109 SWING: +32.4%
	<b>Labor Party</b> Tim Murray	<b>10.9%</b> 9,824 SWING: -6.8%
	<b>Greens</b> Dominic Wy Kanak	<b>7.5%</b> 6,759 SWING: -7.3%
	<b>United Australia</b> Mike Bloomfield	<b>0.7%</b> 625 SWING: +0.7%
	<b>Others</b> -	<b>1.0%</b> 862 SWING: -4.2%



# MEDEVAC: THE OUTCOME



# WHY INDEPENDENTS?

- Community based
- Represent the people not a party
- Encourage better legislation through more nuanced and challenging debate
- Every vote is a conscience vote
- “Power of balance”





# THE FUTURE FOR INDEPENDENTS

The right candidates in the right electorates

Funding

Infrastructure

Volunteer training

Candidate briefings including campaigning strategies and materials,  
preferencing, accounting, media management

Networking