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
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
Kerryn Phelps calls for ‘compassionate compromise’ in maiden speech
POLITICS

Balance of power vs power of balance
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
Morrison government threatens mass referrals to High Court if Parliament moves on Dutton

- 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

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

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

Thank you Dr. Kerryn Phelps for your support and dignity toward human being. Manus victims ♡ you Dr. Kerryn.
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