

FREEDOM PROCLAMATION



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
STATE ELECTION 2022

PRELUDE

South Australia has a rich heritage of freedom and liberty. Freedom is inherent to our life, land and culture. Despite our rugged and unforgiving landscape, free-thinkers, political dissidents and pioneers flocked to our great land: an enclave of freedom in an otherwise prison colony. A freedom deeply rooted in the land, flora, fauna and people that inhabited it for thousands of years.

Such reverence for freedom and liberty could not be suppressed. It blossomed from the roots of our unique flora. It attached itself to each granule of our red desert sand. It crashed on our magnificent beaches from the waves of the harsh sea. It could be tasted like salt in the air. South Australia embodied freedom in every way possible.

When democracy sprang, as if pulsing through the blood of the people of South Australia, it held true to that heritage. A state freely settled, demanding political, economic, civil and religious freedom under a system of limited self-government. A democracy demanding a universal franchise.

But somewhere and somehow, we lost our way. Developing an incessant need for safety at all costs and disregarding the freedom that is as integral to this great State as the hot desert air. Now with a crumbling healthcare system, economic disarray and empty streets, the punishment for neglecting our foundations is clear for all to see.

It took an extraordinary over-reaction to COVID to showcase just how far we've slipped; just how easy it is for the principles so inherent to South Australian history and identity to be so callously disregarded. Peeking into the ever-encroaching dystopian horizon we have reached the crossroads: do we fight for what is as natural to this place as the rivers and springs or do we cave, forever wondering what if.

For decades, politicians and their bureaucrats have treated taxpayers as their personal piggybank and taken voters for granted. We demand change but the major parties are not willing to budge, advancing ever-increasing totalitarian control instead of honouring the freedom South Australia was built on. The Liberal Democrats are that force for change: for over twenty years we have stood firm on our unwavering commitment for less government and more freedom.

This Freedom Proclamation, in combination with our national Freedom Manifesto, outlines our priorities for the coming state election. We will never vote for a reduction in liberty and we will always fight for freedom.

South Australia: Founded FREE – Staying FREE.

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P O L I C Y O N E

COVID: ENDING THE MADNESS

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There is no denying the government response to COVID has been severely disproportionate and mismanaged. Steven Marshall often touted his “roadmap”, but it failed to provide a path away from the use of emergency powers and reinstating our parliamentary democracy.

Peter Malinauskas and Labor have provided no opposition.

We believe it is imperative to restore democracy and end the emergency powers as soon as possible.

IMMEDIATE CHANGES

- **End restrictions.** Restrictions have placed undue burden on business and individuals. People and businesses should be free to make their own risk-assessments and plan accordingly.
- **In-person schooling for all.** Education is imperative for all children: it must be prioritised. Remote learning, delayed and staggered starts, masks and social distancing all reduce productivity and social development. All schools that receive government funding must open on time, remain open, and be open to all students. Schools must return to pre-COVID conditions.
- **Remove contact tracing and QR codes.** The right to privacy is crucial in a free society. Given the rapid spread of Omicron, the purpose of contact tracing and QR codes has become redundant.
- **End the mask mandate.** The use of some types of masks can be helpful in some circumstances, but they should not be forced on people by the government. Businesses should be free to set their own mask rules on their property, but all remaining government mask rules must be removed, so that we return to the pre-COVID situation.
- **Remove vaccine mandates.** Vaccine mandates are incompatible with a free society and should never be tolerated. Private businesses should be free to set their own conditions of employment, but they should not be encouraged to discriminate by lesser restrictions, regulatory favours or government programs.
- **Tests should be available and voluntary.** Mandatory testing and isolation requirements are no longer needed. Rapid antigen tests (RATs) should be free and available to all but should be optional. People should be responsible for self-monitoring their own symptoms and taking the appropriate action as needed.
- **End the “state of emergency”.** Governing by ever-changing decree is not the way a democracy should operate: the will of the people must be represented through Parliament. The “state of emergency” must end, and decision-making must return to the people through the parliamentary process.

ENDURING COMMITMENTS

- **Never lockdown again.** Lockdowns have been the single biggest public policy failure in generations: they cause much more harm than benefit. We have the strength to say never again.
- **Keep schools open.** Education is vital to children; we can never again sacrifice that.
- **Peaceful protest must be allowed.** The right to protest is fundamental to a free society: we must ensure the police are able to work with protest organisers to ensure peaceful events are allowed to go ahead as safely as possible.
- **No vaccine passports.** Domestic vaccine passports are incompatible with a free society and should never be tolerated. Private property owners should be free to set conditions of entry, but they should not be incentivised to discriminate with lesser restrictions, regulatory favours or government programs.
- **Keep internal borders open.** We are one country and states cannot be divided by unconstitutional borders. We will commit to keeping South Australia's borders open.
- **Ensure South Australians can return home.** The government should never abandon South Australian residents caught overseas and interstate who want to return home. We will commit to doing everything in our power to ensure South Australians are allowed to return home.

REFORMING EMERGENCY POWER LAWS

We believe it is imperative to reform South Australia's emergency power laws to ensure this exercise of totalitarian control from an unelected bureaucrat can never happen again.

The purpose of emergency powers is to give the Parliament time to enact proper legislation to deal with the emerging issue, not to be extended endlessly and to govern by ever-changing decree.

- **Protect democracy.** A "state of emergency" can only be declared after two-thirds of each House of Parliament votes in favour of such a declaration. A "state of emergency" can only last three months and cannot be extended. A new "state of emergency" must be declared if powers are still required.
- **Ensure accountability.** When a "state of emergency" is declared, power cannot transfer to an unaccountable bureaucrat. It must be transferred to an accountable Member of Parliament.
- **Ensure transparency.** Each direction given during a "state of emergency" must provide the scientific objective and reasoning behind such a direction. This must be provided a maximum of two weeks after such a direction is made and must be open for community consultation.
- **Ensure human rights protection.** Each direction given during a "state of emergency" must provide a human rights assessment, ensuring such a direction was the least restrictive and discriminatory possible for the given objective. This must be provided a maximum of two weeks after such a direction is made and must be open for community consultation.
- **Criminal liability.** Any bureaucrat, Member of Parliament, or other government employee who is wilfully or deliberately derelict in their duties or abuses their power shall face a maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

P O L I C Y T W O

HEALTHCARE: REPAIRING THE DAMAGE

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The South Australian healthcare system is in crisis. Increases in ramping, decreases in qualified medical professionals and losing paramedics interstate has conglomerated into an enigmatic mess incapable of being solved by the simple political slogans and vacuous solutions of both major parties.

There are three main areas of South Australia's crumbling healthcare system that must be addressed: funding, admissions and administration. While South Australia's healthcare system needs long-term structural repair that cannot simply be solved by Labor throwing money at it, some funding must occur to affect critical short-term repair.

These critical repairs will cost us: they will be difficult and it may take significant time, but they are necessary to ensure our healthcare system can become efficient and sustainable in the long-term.

FUNDING

Approximately 60% of South Australia's budget is focused on healthcare. However, we still see fundamental issues, such as ramping. This demonstrates that simply throwing money at the issue will not fix it. Frankly, there is no easy solution to funding; however, addressing staffing bottlenecks, cutting admissions and finding administrative efficiencies will help.

- **Increase medical staff.** South Australia's healthcare system is in desperate need of personnel, we will increase staff in key areas to relieve ramping, triaging and other fundamental problems.
- **End vaccine mandates.** Many healthcare professionals are trained and immediately ready to re-enter the workforce. Not only are vaccine mandates unethical, but they have put needless strain on our healthcare system.
- **Performance-based remuneration.** Like private industry, salary for higher-level management and the offices of the relevant Ministers must be directly tied to achieving explicit outcomes.
- **Streamline training.** Ensure training protocols are as efficient as possible to permit medical professionals to quickly attend patients, particularly those with comparable skills from overseas and interstate, returning from extended leave or changing specialisation.
- **Remove hiring bottlenecks.** End quota restrictions imposed by specialist bodies for the purpose of creating artificial scarcity.

We are willing to support extra funding for our decrepit healthcare system, provided the relevant Minister is directly and personally accountable for the outcomes of such spending. All healthcare funding should stipulate explicit desired outcomes and the position of that Minister and higher-level bureaucrats must be directly dependent on achieving those outcomes.

ADMISSIONS

The best healthcare policies are those that prevent someone from ever needing to access the healthcare system in the first place. Cutting down admissions will stop the problems before they arise, alleviating the current burden on our healthcare system and allowing meaningful restructure to ensure an efficient and sustainable long-term solution. Mismanagement of COVID has seen many more unnecessary hospital admissions clogging an already broken system that we simply do not have the budget to fix.

- **Preventative healthcare.** Increase research and education into preventative healthcare.
- **Decentralise care.** Not all medical care requires hospital visitation. Where possible, care should be decentralised to local GPs, pharmacies and even the patients themselves.
- **Incentivise private care.** Those who can afford private healthcare should not be further burdening the public system. Significant effort must be made to ensure the public system is there for those who rely on it.
- **Streamline triaging.** Triaging guidelines must be standardised and streamlined state-wide to allow for more immediate and efficient care.

Reducing admissions allows for more efficient triaging and quicker care.

Preventative healthcare and streamlining the admissions process is an essential part of developing long-term solutions.

ADMINISTRATION

Many South Australian healthcare workers can immediately identify significant issues in the chain of command. Often, healthcare professionals feel their voices are falling on deaf ears when it comes to sharing these issues with unions, administrators and management. Many healthcare professionals feel their only recourse is whistle-blowing to media in the hopes of having the issues resolved; however, this usually only results in punishment.

- **Decentralise decision-making.** More decisions should be made as close to the patient as possible. Archaic chain of command structures breed inefficiencies and must be decentralised where possible.
- **Cut administrators pay.** Higher-up administrator positions often encourage bloat to justify their existence. Luxury and waste must be cut from these areas.
- **Protect whistle-blowers.** Staff who expose problems and inefficiencies often do so with noble intentions; they should be rewarded not punished.
- **Nursing ombudsman.** Unions and internal management often disregard the voices of healthcare professionals on the frontline. Medical staff must have access to an independent body capable of redressing their grievances.

Healthcare unions have demonstrated they are more interested in their own organisation and electioneering than the healthcare workers they claim to represent. Real and meaningful change must come from the ground-up by empowering frontline staff that know the practical realities of everyday on-the-ground work and are continually frustrated by inefficiency.

P O L I C Y T H R E E

HOSPITALITY, ENTERTAINMENT & TOURISM: REVIVING SMALL BUSINESS

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The major parties constantly tarnish the hospitality, entertainment and tourism industries as frivolous, at best, to outright dangerous, at worst. From bearing the brunt of COVID restrictions to endless liquor licencing requirements, these industries are an “easy out” for the government of the day – whether Labor or Liberal.

These industries not only employ tens of thousands of South Australians and stimulate South Australia’s economy, but they enrich the lives of all South Australians. From large hotels to the local watering hole, hospitality, entertainment and tourism is the lifeblood of South Australian culture.

We know when hospitality, entertainment, and tourism flourishes, the State flourishes.

For these industries to flourish we must empower operators to make their own decisions – free from government interference.

NOT “HIGH-RISK”

The continued designation of activities such as dancing, singing, and drinking while standing up as “high-risk” has decimated many hospitality, entertainment and tourism businesses.

- **End restrictions.** People should be free to enjoy singing, dancing and drinking while standing with no mandatory density restrictions and mask requirements.
- **No incentivised discrimination.** Businesses should be free to determine who they choose to serve but should not be incentivised to discriminate with lesser restrictions, regulatory favours or government programs.
- **Certainty for the hospitality, entertainment and tourism industries.** The impact from prior and current restrictions as well as the risk of reckless future restrictions is preventing these industries from flourishing. Government should be required to pay compensation for all businesses whose revenue or private property has been harmed by any restrictions.
- **Current compensation schemes are a tangled web of bureaucracy.** Compensation should be easy and accessible for all businesses and apply automatically and immediately when restrictions are implemented.
- **Tax holiday.** Businesses that operate in the hospitality, entertainment and tourism industries have been unable to fully operate for over 650 days. For every one day of restrictions, they should be exempt from any state and local taxes, rates, levies and fees for two days.

EMPOWERING OPERATORS

Operating a hospitality, entertainment or tourism business involves navigating a plethora of state and local bureaucracy. From complex and onerous liquor licences to capacity to al fresco dining, ensuring compliance is time and money taken away from the operator which would be better spent actually running their business – unfairly favouring big business which can more easily absorb compliance and legal costs.

- **End lockouts.** Restricting entry and re-entry into venues after a certain time is an unfair knee-jerk reaction to a non-problem. Venues should be free to set their own trading hours and entry requirements.
- **Remove serving restrictions.** The government has no place behind the bar. Venues should be free to determine if, and when, they choose to serve triples, doubles, shooters, or cocktails.
- **Simplify liquor licensing.** Obtaining and complying with liquor licenses is onerous and complex, licensing should be as unintrusive as possible to ensure only dangerous operators are prohibited. Liquor licenses should be granted automatically and instantly; neighbouring licensed venues should not have the ability to object new licenses.
- **Remove license types.** Trading hours and the provision of food should not depend on license type, operators should be free to determine these.
- **Reduce license fees.** License fees should only cover the minimum administrative cost necessary and should never be used as a punitive measure.
- **Make capacity simple.** The calculation of the maximum capacity of a venue should be based primarily on the area of the venue available to patrons and not hinge on other unreasonable requirements.
- **Personal responsibility.** Businesses, operators and employees should not bear the liability of their patrons simply by virtue of serving them alcohol. Liability should remain for malicious or reckless conduct; otherwise, patrons should bear the liability stemming from their own actions.

CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Clubs and associations, such as sports clubs and RSLs, are the cornerstone of many communities – particularly regional and rural communities. Clubs and associations whose primary function is not operating a hospitality, entertainment or tourism business should be exempt from liquor licensing requirements.

P O L I C Y F O U R

STATE TAXES: KEEPING WHAT'S YOURS

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GST was introduced to simplify the Australian tax system and remove many complicated state taxes. Despite GST being in operation for over twenty years, many punitive state taxes still exist.

State taxes are often hidden and can come as a surprise to many when purchasing a home, registering a motor vehicle or paying employees. Given rising inflation and soaring home and car prices in recent times, these taxes often have an unfair impact on first-home buyers, low-income earners and small businesses.

- **Abolish payroll tax.** Payroll tax is a tax on employment and disincentivises investment and employment in the State. South Australia has the lowest threshold for when a business is liable for payroll tax in Australia, hurting small business and diverting it to other states.
- **Abolish stamp duty.** Stamp duty is primarily paid when purchasing a home or registering a motor vehicle in South Australia. With ever-increasing home prices locking younger people out of the market, stamp duty adds a further and disproportionate burden on first-home buyers and low-income earners.
- **Abolish land tax.** Our current land tax regime taxes capital, not income: pushing property development interstate, limiting supply and putting upwards pressure on housing prices. Whether you own property or not, these taxes are passed on to tenants and inevitably consumers.
- **One-off property levy.** In order to offset some lost revenue, we suggest an equal levy across all property in South Australia not more than once every five years.

REPAIRING THE BUDGET

South Australia is set to owe over 25 billion dollars by 2024. Public debt is simply saddling future generations with the burden of today's wasteful spending. Growing inflationary concerns only magnify this problem, as interest repayments comprise more and more of the State's budget – eventually surpassing what is spent on social services.

- **Stagger tax cuts.** The proposed abolition of state taxes should be staggered in such a way that allows the State to repair some of the damage done to the budget. This should also be staggered so that it helps small businesses and low-income earners first.
- **Cut 10% to all state departments (besides Health).** There is waste and luxury in every department and it will be eliminated if departments are given the right incentives. A one-off 10% cut to all state departments must be achieved.
- **Cut a further 1% per year to all state departments (besides Health).** This should be pursued each year until net debt is eliminated.
- **Abolish all nanny state advertising.** The role of government should be to protect people's liberty, not mould their behaviour at their own cost.
- **Slash parliamentary pay.** Wasteful decisions by irresponsible politicians have created our debt problem and politicians should share the pain in helping to pay down that debt. This should be achieved by an immediate 30% cut in politicians pay, followed by a 10% cut per year until the pay is in-line with the median income.
- **Abolish taxpayer funding of political parties.** This is a scheme created for major parties, by major parties. State debt and taxpayers should not be encumbered by paying for this political favouritism.

A MODEL FOR COMPETITIVE FEDERALISM

While GST has simplified much of the Australian tax system, it has removed the ability for states to use taxes to compete for investment and tourism. While the Federal Government should retain much of the administration of GST, states should be free to set their own GST rates.

By abolishing many state taxes and setting a competitive GST rate, South Australia could provide significant competition to the eastern states. In a low-tax environment, South Australia could become a hub for creation, innovation, start-up business, venture capital and tourism.

After 10 years, should state-based GST rates prove effective in promoting South Australia's interests or encouraging a price-competitive environment for investment and tourism within Australia, the administration of GST should also be returned to the states and almost all other taxing power should be stripped from the Federal Government and returned to the states.

P O L I C Y F I V E

BODILY AUTONOMY & SELF-OWNERSHIP

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There is no more fundamental expression of individual freedom than the right to decide what we do with our own bodies. When free adults cannot choose what we do with our bodies then our bodies are no longer ours, they belong to the government. No one should be subject to medical treatment without their consent and, inversely, everyone should be free to pursue unconventional and experimental medical treatment.

Once we cede the ownership of ourselves to the government, we can no longer be free in any sense of the word. Each individual person is best positioned to make decisions as they relate to themselves and be the exclusive controller of their own life.

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

To properly embody the principles of bodily autonomy and self-ownership, adults must have the right to end their own lives, with or without assistance, and to have access to information to help them do so. Adults wishing to exercise this inalienable right should be free to do so with dignity, painlessly, and at a time of their choosing.

While voluntary assisted dying legislation has recently passed in South Australia, it is considered one of the most restrictive regimes in the world: with over 70 requirements.

- **Terminal illness.** Anybody diagnosed with terminal illness should be free to seek assistance to end their life.
 - No one should be prevented from seeking end-of-life assistance due to the stage of their illness.
 - End-of-life should be recorded in the same manner as if it had resulted from the natural course of the illness.
- **Insufferable pain.** In cases where a patient may not necessarily have a terminal illness but is in such pain that life is unbearable and is seeking end-of-life assistance, a medical professional may agree to the provision of such assistance.
 - This is a private matter between doctor and patient; it is up to each individual medical professional to make such an assessment on a case-by-case basis.
 - End-of-life should be recorded in the same manner as if it had resulted naturally from the illness causing the insufferable pain.
- **Advanced care directive.** Individuals must be free to access end-of-life assistance through an advanced care directive.

- **No illness.** Following the principles of bodily autonomy and self-ownership, all adults should be free to seek end-of-life assistance.
 - End-of-life should be recorded to reflect the person suffered no illness and therefore their family may be denied some entitlements (e.g. life insurance payments) that may flow from a natural death.

SAFEGUARDS

While current legislation is excessively restrictive, certain criteria must still be met to prevent abuse. These criteria apply to all parties to the procedures.

- **Adulthood.** End-of-life assistance must be restricted to those over the age of 18 years.
- **South Australian residency.** End-of-life assistance must be restricted to those who have lived in South Australia for a minimum of three months.
- **Voluntary.** End-of-life assistance must be voluntarily sought.
- **Certainty.** End-of-life assistance must be reserved for patients who hold the conviction there is no other reasonable treatment.
- **Due care.** End-of-life assistance must be provided with due care to the rights of the patient.
- **Independence.** At least one other independent medical professional must confirm the patient has been given proper due care.
- **Sound mind.** Individuals must be of a sufficiently sound mind to access end-of-life assistance.
- **Valid consent.** Individuals wishing to access end-of-life assistance must provide free and informed consent.

VALID CONSENT

Valid consent is a central tenet of modern medical ethics and patients' rights. For medical treatment to be administered, valid consent must be given.

Valid consent requires the following conditions be met:

- **Capacity.** The patient must:
 - Understand the facts and choices involved.
 - Weigh up the consequences.
 - Communicate their decision.
- **Freely given.** No patient can be pressured, coerced, or intimidated into medical treatment.
- **Sufficiently specific.** The patient can only give consent to a specific medical treatment and such consent is only valid for that specific treatment.
- **Informed.** The patient must be aware of the medical treatment and its consequences or side-effects in a way that the patient can clearly understand.

The principles of bodily autonomy and self-ownership empower individuals to be the exclusive arbiters of their own body and will: valid consent underpins this principle. We affirm the tenets of valid consent as the fundamental underpinning of medical ethics and commit to ensuring it is adhered to.

While this is written from the perspective of the patient, valid consent applies both ways: medical professionals should be free to refuse to provide treatment they do not validly consent to.

MEDICAL FREEDOM

Patients and their regular doctors are best placed to deal with an individual's medical options and treatment. While regulators have some role to play in ensuring medical professionals are not acting deliberately or recklessly dangerous, they should largely take a hands-off approach.

- **Doctor-Patient relationship.** This relationship is sacrosanct: we commit to providing full autonomy to both patients and doctors to determine the appropriate treatment.
- **Confidentiality.** Patients must be assured their medical records are 100% confidential. South Australian law enforcement must be committed to protecting such records, even from federal authorities.
- **Right to try.** Patients and their doctors must be free to pursue unconventional treatment and prescribe medication off-label, even if they have not been given full approval by the relevant authorities.
- **Cosmetic procedures.** Patients must be free to pursue cosmetic procedures and accept the personal liability that may result from such procedures. Medical licensing should not be required to provide cosmetic procedures.
- **Consent to bodily harm.** Individuals must be free to engage in activities that may result in physical bodily harm, provided they consent to such activities. The government has no place getting involved in consensual activity.

Just as one can be free to pursue unconventional or experimental treatment, so too must one be free not to pursue treatment which they – rightly or wrongly – deem to be unconventional or experimental.

DRUG REFORM

At the heart of the principles of bodily autonomy and self-ownership is the right to alter your state of mind – whether for recreational or medical purposes. Adults must be free to be the exclusive arbiters of their own consciousness. South Australia must reform our drug laws to adopt a harm minimisation approach, including the legalisation of drugs with a lower risk-profile than currently legal drugs, and allow medical research into the therapeutic application of many drugs.

- **Full legalisation of cannabis.** Legalise possession, cultivation, harvest, manufacture and sale of cannabis for recreational and medical purposes.
- **Legalisation of lower-risk drugs.** Legalise possession, cultivation, harvest, manufacture and sale of drugs with lower risk than alcohol for recreational and medical purposes.
- **Decriminalisation of all drugs.** Abolish criminal and civil penalties for the possession of all drugs for personal use.
- **Expunge criminal history.** Those who were convicted of a drug offence that would no longer be an offence shall have those convictions removed from their criminal history.
- **Medical research.** Allow research into medical and therapeutic uses for drugs identified as having such potential.
- **Transferability of international research.** Drugs that have been found to provide medical and therapeutic benefit from reputable foreign bodies need not duplicate such research in Australia.
- **No underage sale.** Prohibit the sale of drugs to anyone under the age of 18 years.
- **No drug-driving.** Prohibit driving while demonstrably impaired by the effects of any psychoactive substance.
- **Choice for private organisations.** Private organisations and property holders must be free to set their own policies regarding drug-use on their premises and by their employees.

As well as being fundamentally opposed to the principles of bodily autonomy and self-ownership, the criminalisation of drugs has had a net negative effect in South Australia. Drug enforcement makes up a significant portion of law enforcement budgets and has likely devastated far more lives than the drugs themselves. From unjustified police harassment to misuse of taxpayer resources to the destruction of someone's life due to incarceration or criminal history, the war on drugs has been a monumental failure in South Australia and throughout the world. Jurisdictions that have liberalised their drug policy have largely seen vast and broad improvement.

P O L I C Y S I X

SELF-DEFENCE & THE INDIVIDUAL

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While we support the role of law enforcement in protecting people and their property, individuals must not be put in a position where they rely on law enforcement for protection.

For many people in regional and rural communities, slow law enforcement response times make it an impractical option. The individual is the first line of defence against unwanted aggression, particularly in their own home.

YOUR HOME IS YOUR CASTLE

All South Australians must be assured that when an intruder enters their home, they have every right to defend themselves, their loved ones and their possessions, by any means necessary.

- **Intrusion.** When an intruder enters or attempts to enter a private home or workplace without permission and someone fears harm to themselves, their loved ones or their possessions, they are free to use any defensive force necessary.
- **Automatic defence.** Should any offence result from the use of defensive force of a private home or workplace, the burden is on the prosecution to prove, beyond reasonable doubt, it was not in response to the intrusion
- **Prosecutorial obligation.** In instances involving the use of defensive force of a private home or workplace, prosecutors must not be obligated to pursue charges.
- **Civil defence.** Intruders waive their rights to pursue civil claims against any party victim to their intrusion resulting from the use of defensive force or the intrusion itself.
- **Use of firearms.** While self-defence is not a permitted reason for obtaining a firearms license, those who have a firearms license for any other reason are permitted to use it as a means of defensive force in their home.

Your home is your castle: all South Australians deserve the right to rest easy knowing themselves, their loved ones and their possessions are safely protected, regardless of proximity to local law enforcement. Enduring a home invasion can be an extremely traumatic experience; prosecuting people who should truly be treated as victims is a perversion of justice.

INDIVIDUAL PROTECTION

All South Australians are entitled to go about their daily life without fear of violence. While law enforcement often does a great job ensuring our safety, it is not always practical or desirable to rely on law enforcement.

- **Stand your ground.** Any person threatened with deadly force, severe injury or any serious crime (e.g. rape, kidnapping or burglary), while in a place where they are legally permitted, may defend themselves by any means necessary.
- **Good Samaritan protections.** Any person defending another person from deadly force, severe injury or any serious crime (e.g. rape, kidnapping or burglary) may do so by any means necessary.
- **Non-lethal weapons.** South Australians must be free to purchase and carry non-lethal self-defence tools (e.g. pepper spray).
- **Intervention orders.** Proactive self-defence is the best form of defence. Intervention orders and other similar options must be more accessible for all South Australians.

The safety of the criminal should never be placed above the safety of the victim. Women, the elderly and people with disabilities are often the most vulnerable and deserve means of protection when law enforcement is unavailable.

P O L I C Y S E V E N

LIFE, LIBERTY & THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

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We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all are created equal and endowed with certain unalienable rights, among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. With mental health the leading illness in Australia, it's crucial that – now more than ever – we can enjoy activities to stay happy, healthy and connected with others without the exorbitant costs and unassailable barriers caused by overregulation.

We support the rights of the individual to pursue their dreams and enjoy themselves without overbearing government getting in the way of such activities. Overregulation leads to the addition of unnecessary complexity and cost for doing nothing more than pursuing the joys of life, liberty and happiness.

GEL BLASTERS

The “if all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail” approach has been used to regulate gel blasters. It is imperative we implement simple, commonsense rules reflecting the nature of these items as what they truly are: toys – which are by intentional design a safer alternative to paintball guns.

- **Remove mimic firearm legislation.** Gel blasters are not firearms, they are toys, and they should be regulated as such.
- **Firearms review.** We must have a long-awaited review of our firearms laws to ensure gel blasters are not thrown in the same basket as lethal firearms simply because that is the easiest thing to do.
- **Make recreation affordable again.** It is crucial gel blasters remain affordable, this means abolishing expensive gun-safe requirements as well as reoccurring licensing costs and other fees.
- **Freedom for private use.** People must be free to enjoy gel blasters on private property, unrestricted from government, again. Private organisations and property holders should be free to set their own rules regarding gel blaster use.
- **Criminal misuse.** Those who use gel blasters to threaten or intimidate should be held to the same criminal standard as they would if they had used a real firearm.

A similar approach must be taken for paintballing, airsoft, and other sports and recreational activities that use toys with a similar visual profile to firearms. Almost all other jurisdictions in the world, outside Australia, can find a sensible approach that protects the safety of the community while preserving the interests of the sport and recreational activity – this is not beyond our reach in South Australia.

FIREARMS

It is imperative we strike a balance between safety and accessibility. However, arbitrary restrictions and limitations only serve to confuse while doing little to improve safety.

- **End punitive disqualifications.** A firearms license must reflect the ability of the license holder to safely and competently handle the relevant firearm. Disqualifying someone's license due to irrelevant summary offences (e.g. driving offences) is petty and punitive while failing to improve safety.
- **Abolish appearance laws.** The visual appearance of a firearm should not alone be grounds to deny ownership of a firearm.
- **Abolish mandatory waiting periods.** Obtaining a firearms license and purchasing firearms already involves excessive bureaucracy and waiting. Mandatory waiting periods are unnecessarily punitive while providing no safety benefit.
- **End warrantless inspection.** Firearm ownership alone should not be grounds for law enforcement to enter and search your home. If an officer suspects firearms are being improperly stored, they must first seek a warrant or permission from the resident before conducting an inspection.
- **Sidearms for hunting.** Pistols and sidearms are critical emergency defence weapons against large and aggressive game. Those who have firearms licenses for hunting purposes should be free to purchase and carry sidearms for such purposes.

While firearms, unlike gel blasters and other toys, are obviously lethal weapons; it is imperative we recognise their legitimate purposes for hunting, protection of crops, target practice and collecting. Unnecessarily harsh and petty laws, aimed at harassing lawful gun owners with negligible safety benefit, serve no purpose and must be reformed immediately.

SEX WORK

Despite several attempts to remove criminal penalties associated with sex work, South Australia retains antiquated and draconian laws that do little more than harass sex workers and brothel operators. We believe sexual activity between consenting adults is none of the government's business.

- **Decriminalise all sex work.** Abolish all criminal and civil penalties for sex workers and those who solicit sex work in cases where all parties are over the age of 18 years.
- **Decriminalise the earnings of sex workers.** The abolition of criminal and civil penalties for sex workers must also include the abolition of any penalties on the earnings sex workers receive – beyond what ordinary income is subject to.
- **Legalise brothels.** Brothels facilitate sex work in a far safer environment, for both sex worker and client, while also removing some of the undesirable elements of street-based sex work. The service of commercial sex should be regulated in a similar manner as the service of alcohol.
- **"Unmask" escorting.** Escorting services operate in a legal grey area by claiming they only commercialise "personal company" rather than sexual activity. Escorting services should be free to "unmask" and advertise themselves as commercial sex services.
- **Fully legalise porn.** While the consumption of porn is legal in South Australia, the production, distribution, exhibition and sale of porn is not. All aspects of the pornographic industry must be permitted provided all parties are over the age of 18 years, free from the influence of alcohol or drugs, and consent is freely given.
- **No underage commercial sex.** Severe penalties must be in place for commercial sex operators who facilitate sex with anyone under the age of 18 years and adults who solicit sex with anyone under the age of 18 years.
- **No coercion.** Severe penalties must be in place for commercial sex operators who use abusive practices to employ, contract, or in any way coerce sex workers or use extortion practices to coerce clients.
- **Choice for landlords.** Landlords, strata entities, and insurers must be free to prohibit commercial sex work on their premises or impose certain penalties (e.g. higher insurance premiums) or restrictions on commercial sex service operators.

Adults must be free to pursue their own hedonistic pleasures, provided they do not directly harm another person, regardless of the moral disdain of others. Similarly, adults must be free to seek income through any means, provided they do not directly harm another person, regardless of the disapproval of others. Individuals are best placed to determine their own moral compass, not governments.

VAPING

While vaping may carry some risk to the individual, it is significantly less than that of smoking, and poses none of the risks associated with passive smoking. Not only should vaping products be promoted as smoking cessation aids, but vaping regulation should reflect the lower risk.

- **Remove mimic smoking laws.** Vaping is far safer than smoking, laws and regulation must reflect this.
- **Abolish nicotine bans.** While the prohibition on the importation of nicotine is largely a federal issue, the sale and use of nicotine vaping products must be permitted within South Australia. Further, South Australian law enforcement must not assist federal authorities in any efforts that furthers nicotine prohibition.
- **End display restrictions.** Vape shop operators must be free to display their products and allow patrons to try their products within their premises.
- **No underage sale.** Prohibit the sale of vaping products, regardless of their nicotine content, to anyone under the age of 18 years.
- **Freedom for business owners.** Private business owners and property holders must be free to determine their own rules regarding vaping on their premises.

The ability to pursue life, liberty and happiness includes the ability to make the wrong choices. Freedom from government overreach means empowering the individual to be responsible for the choices they make. While smoking carries far greater risk than vaping, this policy could provide a framework that empowers business owners to determine their own rules regarding smoking on their premises.

P O L I C Y E I G H T

PREVENTING CORRUPTION

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Governments by nature centralise power which makes parliamentarians and government officials bigger targets for corporate interests and lobby groups. As well as our enduring principle to limit the size of government and make it less attractive for these entities, we commit to comprehensive and transparent reforms to South Australia's political infrastructure.

This relies on four fundamental premises:

- **Loyalty.** All Members of Parliament and government employees must swear an Oath of Loyalty to the people of South Australia. This Oath must take precedence over any other oath that it may conflict with.
- **Integrity.** All Members of Parliament must have an actual connection with the people they represent. Parliamentary pay and benefits should align with the median income in South Australia.
- **Transparency.** All Members of Parliament, political candidates and high-ranking government officials must be transparent regarding their donations and the assets they hold.
- **Accountability.** Any Member of Parliament or high-ranking government official found in breach of their Oath shall face a maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Pursuing political office is a service, like the police or military, not a career.

Members of Parliament must have an unwavering duty to the people they serve and should face serious consequences if they are deliberately derelict in that duty.

- **Treason.** Wilful acts that deliberately prevent the democratic will of the people should be considered acts of treason, punishable by a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.
- **Independent anti-corruption body.** South Australia must reform the independent anti-corruption body to give it more power to investigate issues surrounding corruption in government and Parliament, like similar bodies in other states.
- **Whistle-blower protection.** All government employees, contractors and related parties must be free to expose corrupt government behaviour without fear of punishment.

TRANSPARENCY

The central tenet in ensuring government and politics remains as free from corruption as possible is ensuring transparency. When voters are aware where a politician's donations come from or what assets they hold, they can make truly informed decisions at the ballot box.

- **Immediate disclosure.** All Members of Parliament, political candidates and high-ranking government officials must fully disclose all political donations and assets held (besides their residential home and personal belongings) as soon as possible after coming into possession of them.
 - **Full disclosure.** Disclosure must be made as succinctly and simply as possible. Any failure to do so will be considered a non-disclosure.
 - **Related parties.** All parties related to the relevant Member, candidate or official (e.g. spouse, child or business entity) will also be subject to such disclosure requirements.
- **Insider trading.** All Members of Parliament and high-ranking government officials whose asset portfolios significantly outperform a relevant underlying index must be required to prove this was not due to access to sensitive information acquired in the course of their parliamentary or governmental duties.
 - **Related parties.** Similar requirements will be demanded of all parties related to the relevant Member or official.

THE ADELAIDE ACCORD

We commit to a non-partisan effort to remove corruption from South Australian politics and encourage transparency as much as possible. We propose all Members of Parliament, political candidates and high-ranking government officials sign an accord signifying their commitment to these principles. While not law, this imposes a set of principles that each party to the accord has voluntarily agreed to, meaning a breach would publicly demonstrate a lack of integrity. This would also expose all parties who are not willing to commit to ending corruption and ensuring transparency.

This document would provide a simple way for South Australians to audit their Members of Parliament and political candidates on their commitments against corruption and for transparency. This tool will empower South Australians to hold their Members of Parliament and political candidates to account.

P O L I C Y N I N E

PROTECTING & EMPOWERING SOUTH AUSTRALIANS

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Major parties rig the deck to ensure their powers and political duopoly remain. The existence of career politicians reflects this: it should be easier for ordinary people to become engaged and involved in the political process.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

- **Enshrine a bill of rights.** Having fundamental tenets that cannot be abridged without overwhelming support is the necessary basis of a free society. It is essential such rights be constitutionally protected.
- **Separation of powers.** The parliament, the executive and the courts must operate separately from one another to protect the democratic will of the people. This separation must be expressly protected by our State Constitution.
- **Referenda.** Amending the South Australian Constitution does not require the direct input of the people. Our amendment process should require a public vote, similar to the Australian Constitution.

BILL OF RIGHTS

One of the fundamental roles of good government is to uphold and defend the rights of its citizens. We suggest the best way to achieve this is by constitutionally enshrining a set of rights to protect the people from excessive government and corrupt state actors.

Such rights must include:

- Freedom of speech.
- Freedom of religion.
- Freedom of the press.
- Freedom of assembly and association.
- Right to petition the government.
- Freedom from government operation in private homes.
- Freedom from unreasonable search and seizure.
- Right to just compensation from government acquisition.
- Right to not self-incriminate.
- Right to double jeopardy defence. People should never be tried for the same charge more than once.
- Right to a speedy and public trial.
- Right to trial by impartial jury.
- Right to notification of criminal charges.
- Right to compel witnesses to appear in court.
- Right to cross-examine witnesses.
- Right to assistance of legal counsel.
- Freedom from excessive bail and fines.
- Freedom from cruel and unusual punishment.
- Freedom from slavery and involuntary servitude.
- Absolute right to vote for all Australian citizens residing in South Australia over the age of 18 years.

While constitutional reform is the superior way to enshrine such rights, we will commit to any instrument that helps uphold and protect the rights of South Australians.

RETURN POLITICS TO THE PEOPLE

For too long, career politicians have constructed laws and bureaucracy to make meaningful engagement in the political process too onerous and complicated for the average person. Those who do succeed often face severe penalties if they fail to comply with strict and ever-expanding electoral regulation – even if the breaches are accidental.

- **Freedom for political commentary.** You do not need authorisation for free speech: people should be free to provide commentary around political issues without fear of censorship or penalty. This includes campaigns to remove parliamentarians from office or vote a certain way on issues, publishing and distributing how-to-vote cards, and voter education campaigns.
- **Educational approach.** Electoral bodies' primary purpose should be an educational one. Punitive measures should be strictly reserved for deliberate or reckless conduct in extreme circumstances.
- **Simplify party and candidate requirements.** It should not be difficult to form a political party and run for office – whether in a party or as an independent. Complicated and onerous laws restrict politics to those who have legal experience or access to significant funding.
- **Abolish taxpayer funding of political parties.** This is a scheme created for major parties, by major parties. It gives incumbents an unfair advantage and entrenches the status quo. Candidates should only be required to pay the minimum administrative costs required to run and should not be entitled to any public funding or refund.
- **Slash parliamentary pay.** Politicians have excessive salaries and benefits: politics should be a passion, not a career. Parliamentary pay and benefits should reflect that of the average South Australian; this should be achieved by an immediate 30% cut in politicians pay, followed by a 10% cut per year until the pay is in-line with the median income.
- **Abolish parliamentary pensions.** Once a parliamentarian has left office, they and their family are no longer entitled to taxpayer resources. Any superannuation entitlements must reflect that of the average South Australian.
- **Impose term limits.** Incumbency unfairly favours career politicians, stifles growth and encourages corruption. All members of parliament should be restricted to a maximum of 16 years in office.
 - Lower house: a maximum of four terms.
 - Upper house: a maximum of two terms.
 - Any combination not exceeding 16 years.

