**PEOPLE’S CHOICE PARTY**

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9. **Name**

The name of the party shall be “PEOPLE’S CHOICE PARTY”, also known as “People’s Choice”. People’s Choice Party may be referred to as “PCP”. From this point onwards, throughout this document, People’s Choice Party shall be referred to as “PCP”. In future documents, and in any correspondence, the name may be abbreviated to PCP providing the name first appears in full on the first page of the document.  
  
Part 2 of the constitution state the principles and objectives of the PCP and are essential to the purpose of the PCP. All party documents, members of the party, and policies are subject to this constitution.

The PCP financial year shall begin on 1 July and end 30 June the subsequent year.

1. **Organisation**
   1. **Vision**

The PCP is dedicated to giving everyday Australians a voice and the power to stand-up against inequality within society, freedom of culture, and the will to fight for what is fair. We seek to promote native wildlife and environmental conservation on a political scale through the implementation of legislation and to fight for those who do not have a voice.

The PCP seeks to hold the government to account whilst fighting for the everyday Australian. The diversity within Australia is what makes it such a great country and we should all be embracing the differences. Regardless of the country of origin, we must stand together as a community to fight for the progression of our great nation.

* 1. **Mission**

To establish a political party that the everyday Australian can relate to and trust. The PCP is a party created by the people, for the people. We seek to make a big impact in the political world, creating enough noise to not be ignored on matters relating to the future of Australia.

Founded on the principles of inequality between safe and marginal seats on all levels of government across Australia, the message of “invest in needs, not votes” is clear across the party. The PCP is a movement for everyday Australians who are fed up with modern day politics and are sick and tired of being neglected, disrespected, and treated with contempt by the government.

The PCP seeks to represent the everyday Australian and believes in a range of political approaches that deliberately appeal to “the people” instead of “the elite”. The PCP intends to contest Australian Federal Elections in both the House of Representatives and Senate.

* 1. **Objectives**

The objectives of The People’s Choice Party include:

* To advocate for and implement the polices and principles stated within this Constitution.
* To inspire other political parties and independents to adopt our policies and principles.
* Engage with other organisations with views consistent with those of the party.
* Encourage Members to take part in policy development for the Party .
* Develop and implement policies consistent with the principles expressed in the People’s Choice Party Constitution.
* Organise activities which promote and further the aims of the party.
* Expand the party membership base.
* Seek the election or appointment to parliaments of the states, territories and Commonwealth of Australia, and to local government councils, of people committed to the principles of the People’s Choice Party.
* Promote cruelty free behaviour within the community.
* Commence a campaign of action that promotes native wildlife conservation across Australia.
* Ensure Australia retains full independence.
* Rebuild Australian Industries.
* To promote urban and rural lifestyles and practices.
* Plan to reclaim assets sold by government.
* Maintain an acceptable defence whilst remaining compassionate and fair in our nation’s international dealings.
* Bring foreign ownership and investment back under control
* Embrace Multiculturalism.
* Undertake investigations into the justification of road tolls nationwide
* Reform voting processes.

The People’s Choice Party strongly believes in democracy and respecting every Australians right to their political beliefs. We, as a party, reject any and all forms of political and/or public corruption and promote accountability when dealing with offenders.

1. **Policy**

The policies of the People’s Choice Party are the foundations of the party and are considered in this constitution a proclamation of position. They are as follows:

* 1. **Affordable Housing Policy**

Affordable Housing in Australia is gradually becoming out of reach for the vast majority of Australians. The People’s Choice Party understands that we need to act now before it becomes too late to live the great Australian dream of becoming a home owner.

* The Australian Government must adopt an affordable housing strategy.
* Restrict overseas buyers from buying housing in Australia.
* Increased federal funding for public, social and affordable housing nation wide
* Increased first home buyers grant.
* Abolish stamp duty Australia-wide for residential first home buyers.
* Investigate the implementation of a 20% tax on vacant held residential properties owned by foreigners.
* Increase housing availability in regional centres and surrounding areas.
  1. **Defence Policy**

The PCP is committed to ensuring Australia’s national security is planned with the future in mind and is adequately prepared for both external and internal threats. The structure of our defence force needs to be able to easily adapt to handle any arising challenges and deter any threats within our region. This will be done by liaising with the ADF and listening to any advice and requirements. The PCP is committed to building strong and enduring alliances with our neighbours in the region.

* Increased funding for the Australian Defence Force.
* ADF equipment to be built in Australia if there is capacity and technology available
* Revision of wages for ADF personnel.
* Ongoing support for the ADF gap year.
* Additional support for returned veterans to integrate back into civilian life.
* Divert Foreign Aid funds to tackling homelessness and PTSD for veterans.
  1. **Environmental Policy**

We depend upon the resources of the planet in order to survive, therefore it is our responsibility to ensure it is protected for future generations.

* Provide tax incentives to businesses to reduce pollution.
* Ban fracking across Australia.
* Support renewable energy without endangering energy reliability.
* Invest in research to protect and clean up our oceans.
* Protection of the environment from commercial operations.
* Protection of our existing forests and marine habitats.
* Develop an effective and maintainable strategy for fuel reduction management.
* Strong Australian biosecurity to continue in the prevention of the introduction of pest plants, animals, and diseases.
  1. **Education Policy**

A strong public education system is the key to ensuring that the next generation of Australians have the required knowledge to effectively run the future of our great country. Australians have the right to access government funded and high-quality education and training.

* All Australian citizens who are attending school or university to receive free education.
* Foreign students to pay a fee for an education in Australia.
* Emphasis on literacy and numeracy in all government schools.
* Funded TAFE systems to provide Australia with skilled workers.
* School funding provided on the basis of equity and need.
* Recognise that the substantial growth in federal funding to non-government school has an adverse impact on public education.
* Public education infrastructure and land to remain in public control and ownership.
* Smaller class sizes throughout the public education system.
* More teachers trained in the aid of students with specials needs.
* Increased support for LGBTIQ students.
* Direct government financial support for apprentices.
* Adequately funded university pathway programs.
  1. **Governance Policy**

The PCP understands that politicians work hard, and we appreciate that, however, we need to put an end to the “career politician”. Becoming elected into government should not be looked at as a career, but rather a period of time to create change within Australia. Unfortunately, long time politicians tend to forget that being in parliament is a privilege and start taking it for granted by rorting the system.

* Implementation of maximum terms that a politician can serve.
* Introduction of mandatory sentencing for politicians caught rorting the system.
* Politicians to step aside whilst being investigated by police.
* All Government tier prospective representatives must be enrolled in the area in which they intend to nominate.
* Royal Commission into politician entitlements and pensions.
* Implementation of an Independent Anti-Corruption board at the Federal level.
* Royal Commission into over Governance.
* Politicians to be held to a higher account.
* Stop Post Parliamentary Benefits.
* Disclose the costs of operating political offices.
* Public database of government spending.
* Plebiscite to be automatically triggered on significant changes that effect all Australians
* Politicians Pay rise capped to C.P.I.
* Travel allowances abolished.
* Electorate allowance only for running electoral offices.
* Contractors and consultants to be reduced across the public service.
* Abolish political donations by foreigners and businesses.
* Existing politician’s pension system abolished and to receive same 9.5% superannuation contribution as other Australians.
  1. **Health Policy**

Everyone has the right to quality health care that is delivered in a timely manner. Ensuring that every Australian has access to the essentials for good health and wellbeing should be one of the highest priorities for the Australian Government. The public funded health care system is the more equitable way to deliver health services.

* Reform healthcare system.
* Reform Medicare system.
* Increased funding to preventative health programs.
* Medicare to remain a universal, publicly funded health insurance system for all Australians, funded from progressive taxation.
* Adequate access to bulk-billing GPs across Australia.
* Health funding that supports preventive care and health promotion.
* Universal access to publicly funded primary dental care.
* Adequately funded mental health services.
* People with a terminal or degenerative illness to have the right to seek assistance from physicians to have a dignified death.
* Investigation and consultation with emergency service agencies in relation to how dangerous situations are best handled.
* Better working conditions for healthcare professionals.
* Treat drug use as a health issue, not a criminal issue.
* Legalise cannabis.
* Greatly reduce waiting times for mental health services and admissions.
* Provide mental health services as part of the response to homelessness.
* Increased training for health professionals to identify and support mental illness.
  1. **Immigration Policy**

The People’s Choice Party is fully aware that Australia is “The lucky Country” “The land of opportunity” and in being so is attractive for immigration.

The PCP fully supports immigration and those seeking refuge in the hopes for a better life who have come here with the best intentions and to assimilate to our way of life and contribute to society.

The PCP have a zero-tolerance policy to those who take Australia for granted and abuse the privilege that they have been granted.

* Continue cancellation of visas and instant deportation for convicted criminals.
* Cancellation of visas and instant deportation for repeat offenders
* Cancellation of visas and instant deportation for all on the terrorist watch list.
* Higher degree of education to help immigrants understand the way of life in Australia and what is expected when living and working within the community.
* A stop to immigrant welfare if chose to not contribute to society and seek work.
* Reduce Immigration into Australia to sustainable levels.
* Refugees provided with protection visas until safe to return to their country.
* Provide visas for migrants to settle and remain in regional centres.
* Expired Visa holders to be banned for 5 years from re-entering Australia if they overstay their visit.
* Dual citizens who commit criminal crimes to serve their sentence, stripped of their citizenship and then deported.
* Skilled migrants must be on short term contracts, train another Australian while here and then leave after the project is completed.
  1. **Justice Policy**

In current times, the law allows magistrates far too much discretion in sentencing with minimum and maximum jail terms. It is important to take this power away and introduce minimum sentencing. The current prison system is severely overrun and overpopulated. Unfortunately, we must now invest in new facilities to facilitate the growth and demand on the prison system in the future.

* No Bail for repeat offenders, or against the wishes of Police and the Department of Public Prosecutions.
* Minimum Sentencing with increased minimums for repeat offenders.
* Remove the luxuries of prison as it is not a tax-payer funded motel.
* Close the Mental health loophole as an excuse to reduced sentencing.
* Appropriate facilities to deal with mental health.
* Tougher Parole requirements.
* Focus Police and other Intelligence agencies in exposing and eliminating the sickening society involved in child sex trafficking.
* Public child sex offender register.
* Ineligibility of protective custody inside prison walls for Child Sex Offenders.
* Give the victim the freedom to speak without the fear of prosecution.
  1. **Social Security Policy**
* Increase age pension by $100 per fortnight for singles and $150 for couples.
* Increase Newstart by $150 per fortnight.
* Provide employment, education and training in the armed services or with local councils.
* Fully fund childcare for working parents.
  1. **Wildlife Policy**

Our wildlife is some of the most vulnerable victims as they have no way of speaking up, so the PCP will do that for them.

The President of the People’s Choice Party has been actively involved in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation for over ten years dealing with some of the most dangerous animals in Australia such as; snakes and crocodiles and sees the importance of protecting and preserving our wildlife and environment.

* Increased sentencing for wildlife related offences.
* Quick responses in animal abuse complaints.
* Further funding for Wildlife shelters across Australia.
* A key focus on education within the community when dealing with Australian wildlife.
* A ban on killing of any wild animal in retaliation.
* Reverse the decision by Government to make it illegal for wildlife controllers to promote wildlife conservation through the use of media.
* To provide shelters with adequate government funding.
* Ban the use of glue traps, leg traps and steel jaw traps.

1. **Positions**

The Executive Committee shall consist of a President, Deputy President, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer and a Party Agent.

Within the constraints of the constitution, the Executive Committee shall act on behalf of all members to establish and administer the national membership list and the rules of the party and to pursue the parties aims and objectives.

* 1. **President**

*Duties and Responsibilities;*

* Lead and act as a coordinator for providing direction of the party.
* Chair all meetings held by the Party.
* Co-ordinate the activities of the Party.
* Take an active role in advocating and is the spokesperson of the Party.
  1. **Deputy President**

*Duties and Responsibilities;*

* Assist the President with their duties in accordance with this Constitution.
* If the President is unable to conduct their obligations under the Constitution, the Deputy is to substitute and fulfil those obligations.
  1. **Secretary**

*Duties and Responsibilities;*

* The Secretary fulfils the requirements and obligations of the position of Party Secretary defined in the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.
* Provide notice in advance to members of all official meetings.
* Prepare schedules, agenda, and correspondence from members for submission to the meeting and record attendance of persons present and arrange for minutes or logs to be recorded.
* Co-ordinate official correspondence of the Party.
* Maintain the party register, in accordance with *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.
* Maintain custody of all documents, statements and records of the Party, and except for those documents that are otherwise accounted for in this Constitution, by other officers.
* Briefly minute, or delegate responsibility for minuting, listing the decisions of meetings of the Party and ensure publication at the earliest possible convenience.
  1. **Deputy Secretary**

*Duties and Responsibilities;*

* Assist the Secretary with their duties in accordance with this Constitution.
* If the Secretary is unable (on a temporary basis) to conduct their obligations under the Constitution, the Deputy is to substitute and fulfil those obligations.
  1. **Treasurer**

*Duties and Responsibilities;*

* The receipt of all monies paid to the Party, the issuing of all receipts and the deposit of such monies into accounts determined by the Party.
* Develop and ensure security and accountability measures for all receipts and payments are followed.
* Submit an Annual Financial Report to the Party, detailing balance sheets, financial statements and relevant particulars.
* Maintain adequate controls over Party finances and all financial records, documents, securities ensuring smooth transition when position is transferred.
* Ensure that all book keeping is conducted by an appropriately skilled person, and all documents conform to relevant legislation and regulations and this Constitution.
  1. **Deputy Treasurer**

*Duties and Responsibilities;*

* Assist the Treasurer with their duties in accordance with this Constitution.
* If the Treasurer is unable (on a temporary basis) to conduct their obligations under the Constitution, the Deputy is to substitute and fulfil those obligations.
  1. **Party Agent**

*Duties and Responsibilities;*

* The Registered Officer fulfils the requirements and obligations of the position of the same name defined in the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.
* The Registered Officer will fulfil the requirements and obligations of the Party.
* Agent as defined in the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

1. **Membership**
   1. **Eligibility**

Membership is open to all persons who satisfy the following points;

* Have read and agreed to the terms and principles provided within this constitution.
* Are not currently members of any other registered or unregistered political party in Australia and do not join another party within Australia whilst a member of the party.
* Are currently registered on the Australian electoral roll.

A member’s party membership will not lapse unless the member resigns from the party in writing to the secretary.

* 1. **Entitlement**

Members are entitled to:

* Be elected into a formal position within the party, at any level.
* Where eligible, and approved by the nomination processes within this Constitution, stand as a candidate in any election the party contests.
* Communicate and submit policy amendment proposals and Constitutional amendment proposals.
* Participate in policy and issue discussion, debate and partake in the decision-making process in accordance with this Constitution.
* Vote at Party Meetings.
  1. **Refusal, Suspension and Expulsion**
* The PCP may refuse to accept an application for membership by an individual on the grounds that the acceptance of the membership may be prejudicial to the interests or values of the Party.
* The PCP also has the power to suspend or expel a member should that individual’s membership or actions whilst a member be prejudicial to the interests of the Party.
* Any refusal to admit a person as a member, and any suspension or expulsion of a member, shall be accompanied by a written statement of reasons for the action, and this statement is to made available to all membership (unless requested to be kept confidential by the member affected).
* A refusal of an application for membership, or the suspension or expulsion or expulsion of any member may only be decided by a majority vote of the Committee
  1. **Quorum**
* A quorum for a committee is three members, at least two of which must be any of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary and Treasurer.
* For the Executive Committee, the above-mentioned three members shall not include proxies.
  1. **Vacancies**

A meeting of a committee and any business transacted therein shall not be invalidated by reason of a vacancy on the committee provided the requirements for a Quorum of members are met.

* 1. **Proxies**

A member of a committee may nominate any other financial member of the Association to attend and act as their proxy in their absence for any defined period of time, provided the nominee is accepted by a clear majority of the remaining elected members of the committee.

* 1. **Appointments**

Where a vacancy occurs on a committee and a proxy has not been nominated then the committee has the power to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term among the members of the Party.

1. **Use of the Party Name**

Public statements, notices, correspondence or other documents may only be issued on behalf of the Party on the basis that:

* The views expressed therein are in accordance with the Constitution and the Aims and Objectives of the Association as defined
* The author and the committee under whose jurisdiction the document is released, are identified on the document.
* The elected President may issue public statements or sign letters or other documents on behalf of the Party.
* Members other than the President of a committee may only issue public statements or sign letters or other documents on behalf of the Party provided any two of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary or the Treasurer of the committee under whose jurisdiction the document is issued have seen and agreed to the final wording of the document.
* Use of the Parties name without authority may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, be taken as grounds for immediate (interim) expulsion of a member

1. **Candidates of public office**
   1. **Endorsement of Candidates**

* The executive committee shall determine procedures for the selection and approval of candidates for public office
* The executive committee must ensure those procedures are documented and made available to members wishing to inspect them

The responsibilities of the executive committee regarding pre-selection of candidates for public office include, but are not limited to:

* Determining the timing of the call for nominations and of the preselection process;
* Determining the need for a voting member ballot for candidates and running order; and
* Documenting criteria for candidate selection
  1. **Direction of preferences**

The executive committee will decide on the allocation of preferences in relation to any parliamentary election.

1. **Dissolution**

Subject to this constitution, the association may be wound up or deregistered in accordance with the Act.