

THE QUEENSLAND LINE

WITH SENATOR SUE BOYCE

JUNE 2009



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NO 'GOOD' INSTITUTIONS, EVER!

The shameful evidence currently coming out of Ireland about institutional abuse of children in the 1900s is a timely reminder that any system that separates and excludes people from mainstream society is wrong.

A 2500-page report released recently by the *Irish Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse* details the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of more than 35,000 children between 1914 and 2000.

The report particularly identifies the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of Mercy as perpetrators and the Irish Government, through its inadequate and collusive Education Department, as culpable.

More than 1000 witnesses testified to abuse in 216 schools and residential settings during the nine-year investigation, partly delayed by a successful legal suit by the Christian Brothers to not identify any of its members named.

Apart from a wider spread of perpetrators from numerous Church and non-Church groups, the Report could just as easily be talking about Australia in the 1900s.

There have been dozens of inquiries by State and Federal bodies here into similar abuse - of white and of black children, of people with a disability, and of people with mental health problems. The most notable in Queensland was the 2000 Forde Inquiry.

Currently, the Senate Community Affairs Committee, of which I'm a member, is undertaking an Inquiry into how much progress has been made in assisting those people known as the *Lost Innocents* and *Forgotten Australians*.

Lost Innocents refers to child migrants brought to Australia from the UK and Malta to institutions - our Inquiry heard that many Australians, now well past 60, are still coming forward for the first time to relive the pain and shame of their childhoods and to attempt to locate families overseas that, in many cases, they had been told didn't want them or were dead. The Committee first reported in 2001.

Forgotten Australians refers to the 500,000 or more Australian children who grew up in institutions and out-of-home care in the 1900s. The 2004 Committee report into *Forgotten Australians* noted "a litany of emotional, physical and sexual abuse, and often criminal and sexual assault... of neglect, humiliation and deprivation of food, education and health care".

Evidence to our Inquiry suggests that, whilst there is more organisational support for adults who experienced institutional abuse as children, most feel that the Churches and other responsible agencies are more interested in public relations responses than genuine sorrow and repair.

The Irish Inquiry is a timely reminder to Australia of why we shut down the institutions - although shamefully not all of them.

Any time, we, as a society, seek to put our citizens, especially our children, away from the mainstream into "special" places we potentially expose them to exploitation, abuse and corruption. Always.

There is currently a stealthy trend for State government bodies, often supported by the Federal Government, to create "new" institutions particularly for people with a disability. These are generally lauded as "smaller" and "more caring" than those of last century. And, no doubt, many of them will start out that way.

Reporting the Irish Inquiry, the *Irish Times* said: "Abuse was not a failure of the system. It was the system."

SPEAKING NOTES

From Introduction to The Boyce Debates - March 27, 2009

... Last year I called for Queensland's special schools to be closed and for all those wonderful resources - human and technical - to be moved into supporting children with disabilities in the mainstream system.

That certainly prompted a lot of strong emotional reactions.

But when you unpacked all the comments it came down to just three things - parents want their children's school environment to be safe, to be educational and to be enjoyable.

My contention is that this can only properly happen when we have truly inclusive education.

In my view, it's time - in Queensland's 150th anniversary year - to move on to the next phase of real inclusiveness.

... (W)hat are we teaching our next generation about discrimination and about inclusion, every time a "special" bus full of "special" students drives straight past the mainstream school to a "special" school.

From Fair Work Bill Speech - March 11, 2009

... The Fair Work Bill is not fair. It does not matter how many government members say that it is; saying it does not make it so. Saying it is fair does not make it fair. Amending the bill can make it less unfair, but that is all.

... if you make workplace relations just another red taped jackboot that you can kick small business with, in the current circumstances a lot of those employers will simply stop employing. They will themselves join the growing queues of the unemployed.

... I would personally like to encourage the use of the overseas definition of a small business - that is, one with fewer than 50 full-time equivalent employees and a turnover of less than \$20 million - not just because it would be good for international consistency but because it would be good for Australia and for the creation of Australian jobs, which is what one hopes this parliament is all about.

... At a time of economic crisis such as we are experiencing, this government should be doing everything to protect the jobs and livelihoods of Australian workers.

From Queensland Hospitals Speech - March 18, 2009

... In October 2007, Mr Rudd said that if he won the federal election the buck for fixing Queensland's hospital system would stop with him.

I am here to tell Mr Rudd that the buck has well and truly stopped. The Queensland system is near collapse.

Yesterday, Dr Chris Davis from the Australian Medical Association of Queensland described the Queensland hospital system as very bloated, very rigid and very politicised.

The report that the AMAQ issued at the same time said that most of Queensland's hospitals were under pressure, despite the record health budget that has been spent - mainly on public servants in the health sector, not on fixing the hospitals.

From Clayfield College Career Day Speech - April 23, 2009

... I have a lot of difficulty in understanding people who say they're not interested in politics. I can certainly understand not being interested in a lot of the false dichotomies and trite abuse that passes for political debate and political reporting in much of the Australian media, but I can't understand not being interested in politics itself.

Politics shapes almost everything about our lives - because it's politicians and the organisations that they establish that decide the foundation stones of our society. The basics of the curriculum that you study at school were decided by politicians.

... The basic hours you will work, and the conditions you will work in, have been developed by politicians.

... Even what's considered a crime and what's not has been decided by politicians. Independent structures, such as the courts, have a lot of scope but ultimately they administer the laws that have been developed by politicians.

From Australian Business Investment Partnership Bill 2009 - May 13, 2009

... The Australian people have decided that this is actually known as 'Ruddbank', not as ABIP, and we need to examine the very intelligent take that Australians tend to have on government actions and government finances. This bill will provide refinancing of loans for commercial property assets.

... The debt will be guaranteed by the Commonwealth - not by the banks and the Commonwealth, but by the Commonwealth - and could leave Australian taxpayers liable for a minimum of \$30 billion worth of debt.

... We could start, I think, with WA Inc. The Labor government's involvement there continues to be a matter of shame and a paragon of ineptness and corruption.

Between 1983 and 1991, the Western Australian Labor government lost millions of dollars by lending to companies that have gone into the Australian lexicon as shonky, such as Rothwells.

... Let us have a look also at the Cain government in Victoria between 1982 and 1992, which thought it knew a bit more about how to run business and make a state rush ahead with development than the market and the experienced businesspeople of Victoria.

The government thought it knew that. It cost \$65 million in debt. It destroyed the banking system of Victoria and led to \$65 million just in government debt that the Victorian taxpayers took years and years to pay off.

That is to ignore the people who were damaged by the collapse of the Pyramid Building Society, which, just as with BrisConnections, the government's support had led people to think was far more secure and far less risky than it was.

For full copies of any of my speeches, please contact my office or online at www.sueboyce.com.au

BUDGET 2009

Economic Management

The Rudd Government has been trying very hard to portray itself as “responsible” and the Howard Government as “profligate” during a “golden age” so it’s instructive to compare the performances of the Howard and Hawke-Keating governments.

Whether Labor likes it or not, the view that Labor Governments can’t manage money persists because it’s true. It’s worth remembering that the Howard Government

faced a number of serious crises such as the Asian financial meltdown, 911, the SARS epidemic and the tech wreck. The only reason they’ve been forgotten is that they were handled so competently.

It took the Coalition 10 years to pay off Labor’s last debt of \$96 billion.

This time, Labor’s Budget blowout of at least \$188 million in net debt by 2012-2013 - and this is Labor’s best case estimate - will place enormous stress on our economy and the ability of our future taxpayers to repay the debt.

National Economic Management (averages)

	ALP (13 years)	Coalition (11 years)
Surplus (% of income)	-5.3%	4.5%
Consumer Confidence	96.6	107.3
Investment growth	3.4% pa	7.1% pa
GDP Growth (real)	3.4% pa	3.6% pa
Underlying GDP growth	-0.9% pa	-1.3% pa
Productivity growth	1.4% pa	1.9% pa
Inflation	4.6% pa	2.9% pa
Household income (real)	0.6% GDP	1.5% GDP
National Savings	3.1% of GDP	4.3% of GDP
Mortgage Interest Rate	12.8%	7.2%
Unemployment	8.2% (10.2% - 8.2%)	6.4% (8.2% - 4.3%)
Employment growth	2.1% pa	1.9% pa

To cover the interest bill alone will cost every Australian \$500 a year.

Despite this the Rudd Government has increased spending by \$124 billion since November 2007. This figure doesn’t include the National Broadband Network (minimum \$43 billion) or Ruddbank (minimum \$26 billion).

Added to this, the Rudd Government has only managed to find \$15 billion in savings over the five years of forward estimates, or less than 1 per cent of the total expenditure of \$1.7 trillion.

Meanwhile annual spending will rise from \$272 billion in 2007-08 to \$342 billion in 2010-11 – the largest percentage jump over three years since the 1970s.

The Government is relying on a forecast of well above average growth of 4.5 per cent of GDP from 2011-12 - for six successive years - to get the Budget out of “temporary” deficit.

If the Rudd Government isn’t tossed out at the next election, we may well end up regarding not just the Howard years as a “golden era of responsibility” but the Hawke-Keating years too.

What is “rich”?

Labor’s Budget has added to the mish-mash definitions of “wealthy”.

A year ago Wayne Swan nominated \$150,000 as the cut-off point beyond which families no longer needed assistance. Since then the Rudd government has done some “tinkering” with the payment levels, leading to widely varying definitions of “wealthy” depending on the tax benefit or assistance.

For example, the Budget’s cut-off point for employee share schemes is now just \$60,000, fractionally above the average weekly wage. Tax deductibility will be stripped from 85 per cent of current participants unless this is amended.

At the other end of the scale taxpayers can now only claim business losses against their primary source of income when their income is less than \$250,000.

This is having a particular impact on retirement planning, where the aim of maximising your income in retirement is being frustrated by constant government changes.

Income Cut-Off	Benefit
\$250,000	Business losses
\$152,720	9% Superannuation guarantee
\$150,000	Family Tax Benefit Part B
\$150,000	Family private health insurance rebate
\$150,000	Paid maternity leave (primary carer)
\$150,000	Baby bonus
\$150,000	Dependents tax offset
\$112,000	Family Tax Benefit Part A (with two children under 13)
\$100,000	\$250 stimulus payment
\$80,000	\$900 stimulus payment
\$60,342	Super co-contribution
\$60,000	Employee share scheme

BUDGET 2009

Families

Families have been hit in this budget with changes to Family Tax Benefit A, the Youth Allowance and the means testing of the Baby Bonus at \$150,000.

However the Rudd Government also confirmed the continuation of the annual bonus to those who receive a carer's payment or allowance, an initiative of the previous Coalition Government.

Carers will receive a yearly bonus of \$600, and an extra \$600 for each person in their care, indefinitely.

As part of the mind games before the 2008 budget, the Rudd Government leaked speculation that they would abolish the Carers' bonus, presumably to increase the "gratitude" of carers when it stayed.

It's also bizarre that the Rudd-Swan Budget is being credited with introducing a long-overdue Paid Parental Leave scheme. The scheme wouldn't start in 2011, after the next election, so it's just an election promise, not a Budget initiative.

Primary care givers will have an opportunity to take 18 weeks' paid leave of about \$544 a week classed as taxable income.

The PPL will be means tested and will cut out when the primary carer's income is over \$150,000. Recipients will not get the baby bonus or Family Tax Benefit B.

It also does not take into account the partner's income. For women who are the higher income earner – here's a tip – have the baby, tell your partner to stay home and you go back to work!

Women who work in the Public Service will be able to "double dip" with PPL at taxpayers' expense. They will continue to receive the very attractive parental leave entitlements of the public service and pick up the extra 18 weeks courtesy of the taxpayer.

Changes to Independent Youth Allowance mean that more than 30,000 students, including a disproportionate number from rural and remote areas, will be significantly disadvantaged when the changes takes effect from January next year.

Finding part-time work for 15 hours a week in small country towns is difficult, but doubling this to 30 hours a week makes it even harder. In some cases it will be impossible for students to clear this hurdle.

The Coalition will refer the Youth Allowance changes to a Senate Inquiry when these changes are presented to Parliament.



Older Australians

The Rudd Government finally increased the pensions for aged, disability, veteran pensioners and increased carers' benefits.

This is despite voting down the Coalition's bill to increase the pension by \$30 a week last September.

At the time the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin said our move was "opportunistic" and "populist".

The day after the budget announcement and Ms Macklin changed her tune:- "This pension rise is to really deliver for those who've been finding it very, very hard".

Self-funded retirees had a minor win in the Budget, with the Government dropping its unfair plan to include gross tax-free superannuation income in the Commonwealth Seniors Health Care Card income test.

However, the Government will include income in the test that has been salary sacrificed into Superannuation.

Ordinary taxpayers will also no longer be able to sacrifice as much salary into Superannuation. Australians aged under 50 will only be able to sacrifice \$25,000 a year and those over 50 will only be able to sacrifice \$50,000.

I am also alarmed at the expectation that Australia's superannuation funds will be encouraged to invest in the government's unfunded infrastructure spending.

After presiding over the biggest collapse of superannuation savings in Australian history, this Labor Government is prepared to further put at risk our national savings to fund a series of uncosted and ill-measured announcements.

One budget suggestion I support is the increase in the pension age from 65 to 67. Australia is faced with an ageing population and the number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase by 111 per cent by 2036. The Coalition discussed the prospect of raising the pension age to 67 before the 2007 election.

The Treasurer has raised the amount the pension reduces from significant income by 20 per cent, providing a further disincentive to work.

There is a very real risk that the government is providing "sit down money" incentives designed to encourage people to stay at home instead of working.

In government, the Coalition provided more and more incentives for people to keep working if they were able to. This included the pension bonus, which increased the longer people delayed the start of their pension.

Over the past 10 years total expenditure on the age pension has increased from \$17.1 billion (in December 2006 dollars) in 1996-97 to \$22.8 billion in 2006-07.

As Australia's population ages, this is expected to increase with pensions rising from 2.5 per cent of GDP in 2006-07 to 4.4 per cent of GDP in 2046-47.

The Government's move to discourage meaningful employment will punish those who wish to work into their sixties, seventies and beyond.



BUDGET 2009

A Rocky Future For Business

Since the Rudd Labor Government came to power, times have been tough for businesses of all sizes. The confidence and performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) has continued to deteriorate rapidly. The latest Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) Small Business Survey shows that business expectations for this sector fell to the lowest levels in the history of the survey.

	6 Year Average	Dec 2007	Sep 2008	Dec 2008	Quarterly Move	March 2009
Small Business Conditions	53.3	54.0	38.7	34.2	↓	34.3
Expected Economic Performance (pts)	47.2	43.9	26.0	24.7	↓	—
Sales Revenue	55.5	57.3	43.3	36.5	↓	40.7
Wage Growth	55.4	56.3	42.2	38.0	↓	54.5
Non-Wage Labour Costs	45.1	47.8	42.9	37.1	↓	55.3
Selling Prices	55.7	56.0	54.4	52.5	↓	51.9
Profit Growth	46.7	47.4	36.2	32.8	↓	36.6
Employment	52.8	53.1	46.0	42.7	↓	43.8
Overtime Utilisation	52.0	53.1	44.6	40.8	↓	39.5
Investment in Buildings and Structures	50.1	50.5	44.1	36.2	↓	37.9
Investment in Plant and Equipment	55.5	57.4	46.8	41.1	↓	38.0

Labor's Budget assumes that economic growth will bounce back to the rate of 4.5 per cent during 2011. Rudd and Swan have stopped listening to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which claims that this figure is optimistic and a more realistic growth forecast for 2010-2011 is 1.1 per cent and 3 per cent in future years.

It looks like Rudd and Swan are playing with the future growth rates but doing little to help businesses in the current downturn.

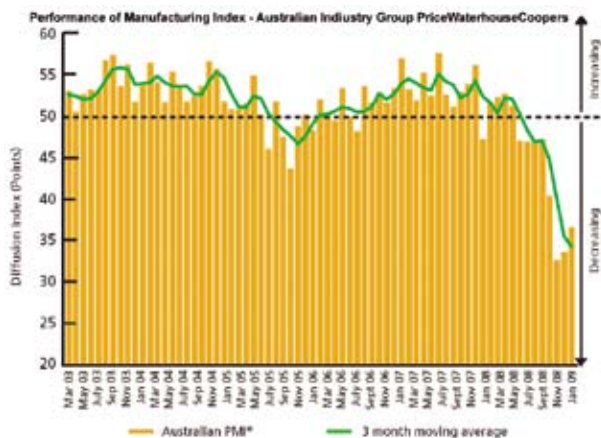
The budget contains some measures to help SME's get through the tough economic conditions, but nothing to support Queensland jobs.

In fact Queensland's second largest employer, the tourism industry, faces a cut in government spending of \$26 million a year, from \$195 million to \$169 million.

The single largest cut is to Tourism Australia's budget, which is chopped by \$13 million.

The Government splashed around \$23 billion on \$900 cheques but the cash splash did nothing to support Australian jobs in the manufacturing sector.

The *Australian Industry Group/PriceWaterhouseCoopers Performance of Manufacturing Index* has fallen by over 10 per cent since October 2008. The index is currently



at 30.1 points, its lowest since 1992. April was the 11th consecutive month the index was below 50 points after the Rudd Government took over.

The Budget did provide some much-needed assistance for companies looking to invest in technology research, with the Research and Development tax credit increased to 45 per cent for companies with a turnover of less than \$20 million and 40 per cent for all other companies. However, this won't take effect until 2010-2011.

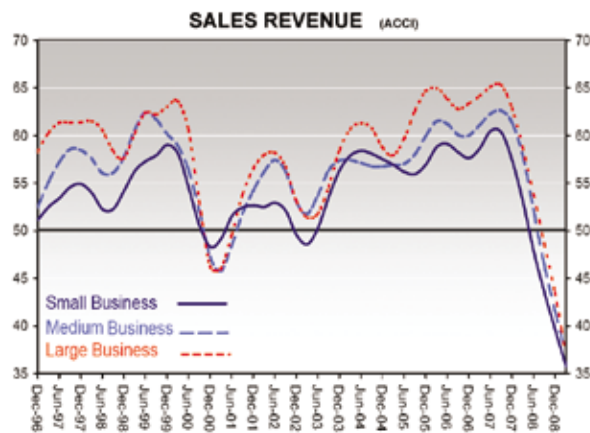
The Government also extended the tax break on eligible types of assets for small businesses, despite only a small amount of businesses taking up the offer.

However, Treasurer Swan doesn't seem to understand that many businesses simply cannot find the money to invest in research and development or new assets with the current slump in demand.

In a further blow to manufacturing and retail businesses, consumers confidence has also taken a hit. The Westpac-Melbourne Institute Consumer Sentiment Index fell by 4.3 per cent.

Westpac Chief Economist Bill Evans blamed the drop directly on consumer reaction to the Budget.

This is evident in the ACCI's Sales Revenue projections, which are at their lowest level in the 13 years of the survey.



Unlike Labor, the Coalition believes that Australia's economic recovery will be built on the backs of the capacity of small and medium businesses to employ Australian workers.

In his Budget Reply Speech, Opposition Leader, Malcolm Turnbull said: "Private enterprise and small business must be supported because they are the drivers of economic growth."

Continued cash flow for business, particularly small business, is vital. The Coalition will improve small business cash flow by allowing those with a loss in this year to "carry back" up to \$100,000 tax paid on profits in the previous three years.

We will also work to lower red tape and regulation on business to free them up from transaction costs.

It is a desperate pity that the Labor Government doesn't have enough practical business experience to help Australia out of the current economic downturn.

BUDGET 2009

Climate Change and Water

The Government did not spend any money on green infrastructure in the Budget to combat climate change and will continue with its flawed *Emissions Trading Scheme*.

The Australian Coal Association claims that 10,000 jobs will be lost by 2021 if the ETS scheme proceeds.



Many Mayors of regional towns relying on industrial production, such as Gladstone's Cr George Creed, have said that their communities will be destroyed if the scheme goes ahead.

Labor are simply not interested in protecting the jobs of Australian workers.

In more bizarre Budget spending, Climate Change and Water Minister Penny Wong gave her home town of Adelaide \$288 million towards a desalination plant.

A lack of water is a national problem, not just a Southern Australian one. Queensland is building a desalination in Tugun and has been unsuccessful in receiving funding. The Minister jumped on the chance to provide a desalination plant to her home state but is giving no indication that she understands Queensland's needs.

Following the announcement of the \$288 million gift, the State Government of South Australia even lowered water restrictions. How nice it would be to have a Federal Government committed to achieving similar outcomes for Queenslanders.

Gladstone Misses Out

During Parliamentary breaks I try to visit Queensland country areas to determine how I can best assist Queensland communities as an Opposition senator.

My recent visit to Gladstone was a little different, coming just a few days after the announcement of massive local job cuts. With its extraordinarily broad industrial base Gladstone is the first place to feel the effects of boom and, unfortunately, of bust.

I was expecting a long list of projects that needed Federal support, but that wasn't the case in Gladstone.

In meeting after meeting, whether it was Cement Australia or Meals on Wheels, it became clear that there is one crucial key to Gladstone's development - a substantial upgrade to the airport.

Gladstone's airport is the most significant bottleneck to efficient and competitive community development.

At present the airport has a "hump" in the middle, about the height of a bus, that needs to be filled and levelled.

Infrastructure

Rather than building national infrastructure to support Australian jobs, the Labor Government chose to splash around \$23 billion by giving it away in cheques.

Instead of investing in Australia, they gave it away.

Swan and Rudd left infrastructure spending to the Budget, however Queensland's rural and regional road maintenance will end up with less funding.

The Government's Black Spots program, designed to improve regional roads, will now be spent on the national network after the Government decided to give cities access to funding from the Strategic Regional Project.

These cuts will dilute the amount of money spent on the safety of rural and regional roads in Queensland.

The Government will spend \$20 billion on a feasibility study for Brisbane's inner city rail network and \$365 million on a Gold Coast light rail network from Griffith University's Gold Coast campus to Broadbeach.

Gold Coast Council says that the light rail system to Broadbeach does not go far enough and instead needs to be extended to the transport-poor areas between Broadbeach and Tweed Heads.

Projects worth \$664 million to duplicate the Bruce Highway between Cooroy to Curra and for additional works on the Ipswich Motorway have been announced.

The Government is also continuing with plans for a \$43 billion for a National Broadband Network. As I said in a media release on April 8, the Government's \$43 billion scheme for a National Broadband Network is not really a plan, it is only an idea. The Government has no business case, structure or model in place. If directors of a private company asked for investors' trust on a project with no prospectus or strategy, ASIC and the ASX would knock them out of the market.

The Gladstone Regional Council - demonstrating the 'can do' attitude of the region - grew tired of waiting for State and Federal Government assistance and is spending \$65 million to bring the runway up to the standard required by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).

Given the billions of dollars in revenue that flow to Government coffers from industry in this area, it's unbelievable that the State and Federal Governments have refused to contribute a lousy \$15 million each to extend the runway for larger aircraft and to provide a secure baggage area as required by CASA.

Without this additional funding, Gladstone Airport will not be able to take jet aircraft or larger prop aircraft, leaving Qantas as the only airline flying to Gladstone. Without competition Brisbane-Gladstone flights are regularly two or three times more expensive than Brisbane-Rockhampton flights.

It beggars belief that the Federal Government left Gladstone off its Infrastructure list in the recent Budget.

QUEENSLAND SNAPSHOT

AS A QUEENSLAND SENATOR, MY ELECTORATE DOESN'T STOP AT BRISBANE. IT EXTENDS FROM CAPE YORK TO COOLANGATTA AND FROM BURKETOWN TO BIRDSVILLE.



With Gaythorne RSL President Merv Brown at the opening of the new memorial



Addressing Year 11 students at Clayfield College Career Day



With Rio Tinto General Manager Mike Dunstan at Yarwun



With Shadow Childcare Minister Sophie Mirabella at Creative Kids Child Care, Clontarf



The Boyce Debate with Dr Rhonda Farragher, Dr Bob Jackson and Professor Suzanne Carrington



With Hon Julie Bishop and LNP Queensland President Bruce McIver at my office opening



Accepting a petition from Australian Independent Retirees Queensland President Helen Sava and Vince Watson



With Shadow Disability Spokesman Senator Mitch Fifield and Rod Sayer-Cartmill at HELP Enterprises, Eagle Farm



With Morey Scholarship winner Stacey Ketchell at Unifem Breakfast



With Honorary Greek Consul Jim Raptis celebrating Greek National Day



With Member for Ryan Michael Johnson and Ms Yeo at Australia Day Citizenship ceremony



With Kevin Doyle and Stuart Ritchie at Cement Australia's Gladstone plant

THE OFFICE LINE

The Boyce Debates

As part of the sesquicentenary of Queensland's founding, I will be presenting a series of debates on topical issues.



Following the success of the first Boyce Debate – “Inclusive Education: Is it the Will, the Skill or what's in the Till?” - we are planning our second Boyce Debate in October.

The theme of the next debate will be “Love, Hate....Politicians”.

In my view, democracy itself suffers if Australians citizens have a cynical and disrespecting attitude towards politicians. But how widespread is the attitude? Is it simply “tall poppy” syndrome? How much do politicians deserve to be disrespecting?

I'm always bemused by people who believe the solution would be “to get rid of all politicians”. I've yet to find one proponent of this view who can suggest an alternative system of government.

Subscribe to Queensland onLine on my website or email update@sueboyce.com.au to get the latest updates.

End Notes

One US magazine was recently singing the praises of the “staycation” - the holiday spent at home. As austerity becomes the new black, “staycations” become something to boast about so it may go into the lexicon. In our family, the “staycation” has been known for years as “splodging around” - great holidays as long as you ignore the emails and vet the phone calls.

Next time there is a drought in SEQ, just ask me to invite a Victorian MP to town. When I hosted a visit from the Shadow Minister for Child Care & Women, Sophie Mirabella, who represents the Victorian seat of Indi, on April 2 the heavens opened and Brisbane north recorded 30 mm of rain in a few hours.

On May 19, I hosted a similar visit from Victorian senator, Mitch Fifield, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, and Brisbane was deluged with 80 mm.

I'm happy to try this “experiment” in all other parts of Queensland. Just give me a call.

NOTE: “Experience” suggests this does not work with MPs from other states.

CAN I HELP?

As a Senator for Queensland, I represent people throughout the State. I'm happy to help residents, community organisations and businesses with any query or issue that falls with the Federal Government's responsibility.

I may also be able to assist you with information about:

- Government programs and policies
- Parliament House in Canberra
- Funding rounds
- Federal Parliamentary structure

I can also assist with:

- Letters of support for community organisations
- Congratulations for milestone weddings and birthdays
- Flags for service and community organisations

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