

September 2010

Dear ACL Supporter,

I hope that you found the Australia Votes material useful in getting information out to your churches and networks before the election regarding where the political parties stand on issues of concern to Christians. Thank you to all of those who made efforts to distribute the material amongst your churches.

In WA, we ran three Meet Your Candidate Forums in the electorates of Forrest, Hasluck and Swan, with over 250 people in total at these forums. These forums achieve two things: firstly they educate the Christian community on where their candidates stand on issues that are important to them; and secondly they show the candidates the strength and commitment of the Christian constituency. I think we achieved these aims in WA. I would like to thank Grace Christian Church Bunbury, Thornlie Church of Christ and Airport City Church for hosting these forums.



Michelle Pearse
Western Australian Director

Hasluck ended up being one of the most closely contested electorates in Australia, making that forum all the more significant. Meet Your Candidate Forums play an important role in helping Christians determine where to place their vote – something all the more important when only hundreds of votes separate the two candidates. This is why it is so important for Christians to attend these forums at both state and federal elections.

ACL also endeavoured to film five-minute videos of individual candidates answering questions put to them by ACL to place on the Australia Votes website. This feature gives Christians the opportunity to see where their candidates stand on issues of concern. We managed to upload over 30 videos across the country but we hope that by the next election this number will significantly increase.

Following the election, I recently took a short break in Kuala Lumpur with my husband and our one-year-old son. It is interesting that Malaysia has had the same government in place for over 50 years. Even though there is a democratic system, corruption keeps the same government in power.

In our country, it may be frustrating to some that there is no clear majority in Government, but we are blessed with a fair and equitable system where the people truly do get a say in who leads and represents us.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Pearse".

Michelle Pearse
WA Director

