



Gay Hawksworth
Queensland Nurses' Union
GPO Box 1289
Brisbane
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By e-mail: gnu@qnu.org.au

Dear Ms Hawksworth,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to outline the views of the Coalition on the important issues facing your members. On behalf of the Coalition Members of Parliament and candidates I am pleased to respond to your survey.

The Coalition has a proud history of investing in Australia's nursing workforce. From 2005 to 2007 alone, the Coalition created an additional 3,700 commencing nursing places. The Coalition also introduced MBS rebates for practice nurses. Funding for health and ageing under the Coalition increased from approximately \$20 billion in 1995-96 to over \$50 billion in 2007.

A strong and well resourced nursing and midwifery workforce is fundamentally important to supporting Australia's health system. The Coalition is committed to providing new and flexible education and training opportunities and appropriate career progression pathways for nurses and midwives.

Under the Coalition, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reports that funding for public hospitals increased from approximately \$5 billion in 1995-96 to over \$11 billion in 2006-07. In fact, the 2003 Australian Health Care Agreements provided a funding increase of \$10 billion over the previous Health Care Agreements, representing a 17 per cent real increase in funding for the nation's public hospitals.

The Coalition will make no changes to the Fair Work Act in its first term. We will give Labor's new framework a fair go. If in government we believe improvements need to be made we will fully and transparently take those improvements to the Australian people and seek a mandate for them. The Coalition will retain Fair Work Australia and the Fair Work Ombudsman.

Australians are living longer and each successive Intergenerational Report has highlighted the challenge and potential costs of an ageing population.



The provision of good quality care for senior Australians is a priority for the Coalition. Australians want choice and flexibility and having a say about the care options that best suit their own or a family members' needs.

In aged care there are many dedicated and committed individuals doing an extraordinary job under difficult circumstances. The Coalition know that nurses and assistants in nursing who work in aged care provide a high level of care and loyalty to frail older Australians and deserve appropriate recognition.

The Coalition will be consultative and work with the sector to deliver certainty. The sector will have a strong voice with government and we will listen to the experts. The bureaucracy and red tape must be addressed and older Australians deserve more face to face care.

More generally, the Coalition believes Labor has made the future of all Australians more uncertain.

On top of their billion-dollar waste on school buildings, their mismanaged home insulation fiasco and their soft border protection policies, Labor is growing Australia's debt by \$100 million per day.

They even removed an elected Prime Minister to suit their own political interest.

The Coalition is taking a stand in the best interest of Australia's future.

We will end the waste, repay the debt, stop the taxes, stop the boats and ease the pressure on Australian families.

Throughout the election campaign we will be progressively announcing policies outlining our commitments for Australia's future. These policies will cover a number of issues canvassed in your survey.

Once announced, our policies will be available at www.liberal.org.au and www.nationals.org.au.

Thank you for helping us to communicate the Coalition's commitments to your members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Loughnane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian Loughnane
Federal Campaign Director