



# VICTORIAN ELECTION 2014

*Essential Pro-Life*

## VOTING GUIDE

FAMILY LIFE INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA



### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The aim of this voter's guide is to help you to cast your vote in an informed manner consistent with your Christian faith. It will help you to avoid choosing candidates who endorse policies that cannot be reconciled with the moral norms once held by *all* Christians. The Victorian Parliament probably has the most anti-life record in our country. Four significant Acts of Parliament have been passed which fundamentally breach the natural law. They were passed in the governmental term previous to the current one, however many of the Parliamentarians who supported at least one, if not all, of these repugnant Acts, still hold their seats and will recontest in this election. In this guide there is a table supplied for the Lower House members who voted for or against the following destructive pieces of legislation.

- 1. The Abortion Law Reform Bill 2008** was designed to legalise abortion up to the moment of birth for any reason and to coerce pro-life doctors and nurses into co-operating in abortions. The Church publicly opposed this Bill.
- 2. The Relationships Bill 2007** was designed to give homosexual couples a chance to register their relationships (for the purpose of treating them more like married couples). The Church publicly opposed this Bill.
- 3. The Assisted Reproductive Treatment Bill 2008** was designed to replace the old *Infertility Treatment Act* and granted wide access for married and unmarried couples to IVF procedures. The Church opposes IVF.
- 4. The Research Involving Human Embryos Bill 2008** was designed to legalise new forms of 'embryo research' which necessarily involves the killing of innocent humans through their deliberate manipulation and destruction. The Church publicly opposed this Bill.

### THE LOWER HOUSE (LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

There are 88 seats in Victoria's Legislative Assembly. Every voter has a 'local member' who represents their particular area. For **Daniel Andrews' Labor** to win the election they need to control 45 seats in the Assembly. They currently hold 43 seats. **Denis Naphthine's Coalition** (Liberal / National) holds 44 seats. There is one Independent.

After victory at the 2007 federal election, Labor governed Australia in every state and territory. Seven years later the only remaining Labor governments are minority administrations in the ACT and South Australia. In 2010, Victoria became the second state to swing to the coalition but Victorian Labor avoided the thrashings that were later inflicted upon the QLD and NSW Labor parties.

The 2010 Victorian election was the first Australian election in more than a decade to return a lower house devoid of minor parties and independents. The Coalition took office with 45 seats to Labor's 43, a Legislative Assembly majority of 44–43 once a government member took the Speaker's chair. In the Legislative Council the Coalition also won a majority with 21 members in the 40-seat chamber.

The leadership of the Liberal party was handed over mid-term from Ted Baillieu to the current Premier Denis Naphthine. It appeared that the government was held hostage by the pro-life member for Frankston MP Geoff Shaw. The day after Shaw finally resigned from the Liberal party and announced himself as an independent, Baillieu resigned as Premier. Shaw had apparently applied pressure for a Private Member's Bill to change the state abortion legislation. Naphthine stated that his Government had no plans to change the abortion laws: "...while I am Premier of this state, I will not allow Mr Shaw to introduce any legislation seeking to change the abortion laws in Victoria." The self-professed Catholic Naphthine is a clear example of the trend whereby a politician votes correctly for a pro-abortion bill but backflips and cannot be relied upon for support when subsequent attempts to amend the passed bill are made.

### EMILY'S LIST

Victoria is the birthplace of Emily's List – a fact which is reflected by the sheer number of current sitting members and new candidates. On closer examination it is also patently obvious that Emily's candidates are handed the cream of the available safe Labor seats – see the seats of *Dandenong*, *St. Albans* and *Yuroke*. This favouritism within the pre-selection processes of the Labor Party is an easily observable nationwide trend. There has been significant electoral boundary re-distribution leading into this election, which has rendered 3 Emily's MPs in seats which are now considered to be marginally Liberal. This places a total of 7 sitting Emily's MP's fighting to keep their seats in Parliament. However Emily's are well placed to increase their number of seats in the Upper House.