

As your Federal Member, my priorities remain:

- To work towards a stronger Australia and better future for our children.
- To support and care for our senior citizens.
- To achieve a fairer taxation system.
- To listen and give voice to local community concerns.
- To preserve our local area and amenity, keeping it a safe and pleasant place to live.

Peter Costello

How to vote **LIBERAL** in Higgins

House of Representatives

On the small green ballot paper: You **must** place a number in every box **exactly** as shown

- 5 LAWSON, Ian Robert
- 6 TRAFFICANTE, Robert
- 1 **COSTELLO, Peter**
- 10 SPENCER, Rod
- 7 DWYER, Russell
- 8 TORNEY, President
- 9 WALLACE, Jude
- 2 DICKINS, Michael
- 3 ZYNGIER, David
- 4 SHAW, Craig

The Senate

1
Liberal/
National
Party

Senate voting is easy. On the white ballot paper, simply place number 1 in the Liberal/National Party box.

TROETH,
**NO NEED
TO MARK
THIS
SECTION**
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**Peter
Costello
and the
Howard
Government
have the
policies for
a stronger,
more secure
Higgins...**



Peter Costello

The Howard Government delivers for Higgins...

A NEW TAX SYSTEM

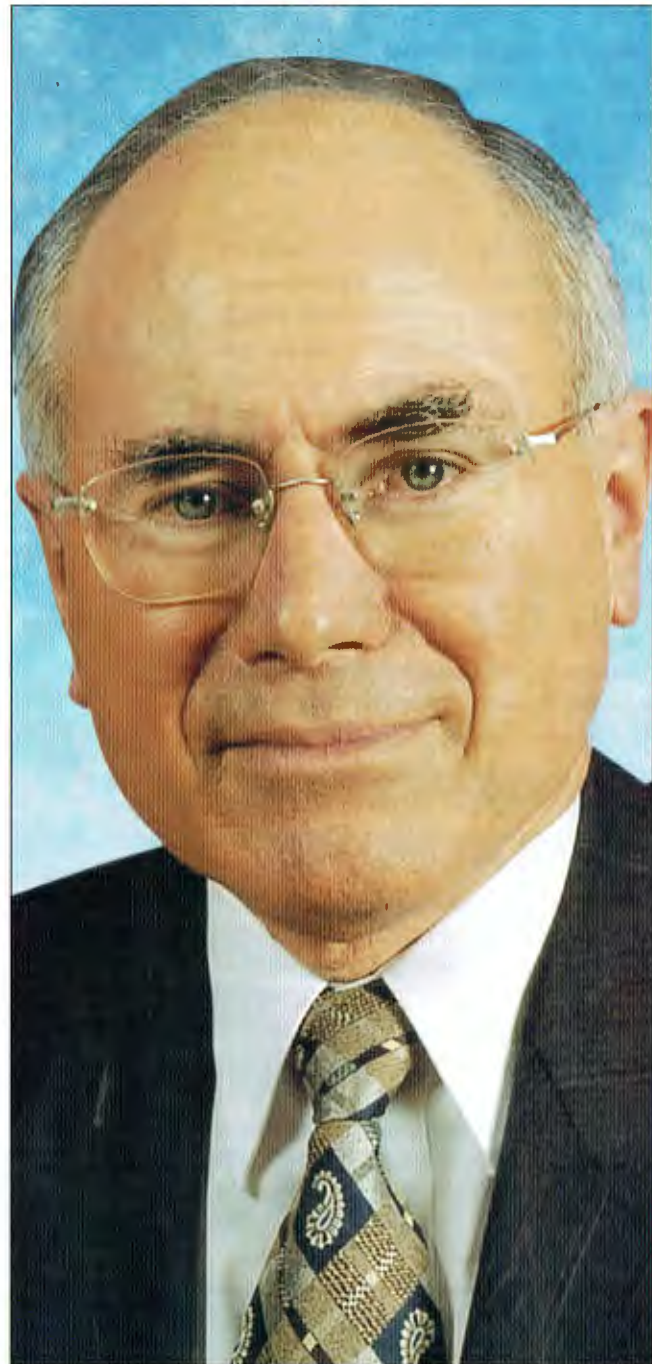
A re-elected Coalition Government will introduce a fairer taxation system for a stronger Australia. It will benefit families, retired Australians, and will be better for business. It will include reductions in income tax, an increased tax free threshold and the replacement of 10 hidden taxes with a single rate GST.

IMPROVING THE HEALTH SYSTEM

A re-elected Coalition Government will ensure that private health insurance is more affordable by offering a massive 30% rebate on premiums. This in turn will relieve the burden on our public hospital system - all Australians will benefit.

WORKING FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS

Under a re-elected Coalition Government, pensions will be boosted by 4% and will be maintained at 1.5% above the cost of living as measured by the C.P.I. The \$280 million Staying at Home package is assisting the elderly to remain at home. The Seniors Health Card has been extended to an additional 220,000 self-funded retirees.



Prime Minister John Howard

We've worked hard to fix the problems Labor left behind.

Interest rates

- ✓ Home loan interest rates at their lowest level since 1970, around 6.5%.
- ✓ A family with a typical \$100,000 mortgage saves almost \$320 per month on interest repayments compared with March 1996.
- ✓ Small business borrowing rates at their lowest since the 1960's - well below Labor's 20.5% in 1989.
- ✓ Lowest inflation since the 1960's.

Welfare cheats

- ✓ \$46 million saved every week - 570,000 people caught.
- ✓ \$700 million in social security debt has been recovered.
- ✓ Clamping down on those who try and claim the dole when moving into a high unemployment area.
- ✓ 10,000 unemployed have had their dole cancelled this year for not honouring their obligations under the dole diary.

Rural Australia

- ✓ \$525 million package "Agriculture - Advancing Australia".
- ✓ \$1.6 billion to improve roads and restore the Blackspots program abolished by Labor.
- ✓ \$250 million Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure.
Fund to provide high quality communications facilities.
- ✓ \$1.25 billion Natural Heritage Trust to repair and restore the environment and create jobs in the bush.

Work for the Dole

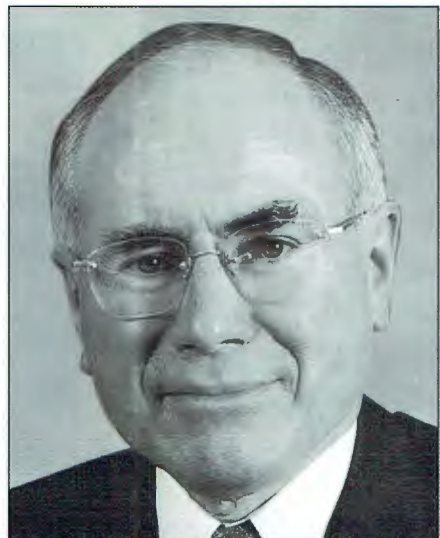
- ✓ 100,000 Work for the Dole places, building the work ethic for the unemployed.
- ✓ So far, 8,600 participants have worked on 174 projects with 301 new projects approved involving 16,580 young unemployed.

Older Australians

- ✓ \$280 million Staying at Home carer's package to assist the elderly to remain at home.
- ✓ Linked the Aged Pension and the War Widow's Pension in legislation to 25% of average male weekly earnings - for the first time.
- ✓ Senior's Health Card extended to an additional 220,000 self-funded retirees.

Labor's debt

- ✓ By the end of this financial year, the debt left by Labor will be cut by over \$20 billion, from \$96 billion to \$73 billion.



Putting families first

Strengthening families, by providing financial support and helping them stay together, has been a top priority during our first term. We will:

- ✓ Provide an extra \$51 million to boost family and relationship support, including counselling, mediation and dispute resolution procedures.
- ✓ Strengthen and build upon the Coalition's National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy with a \$48 million boost.

Carers

Build on the Coalition's recognition and support of carers in three successive budgets with a further \$100 million to extend carer respite support to carers of young people with a disability and provide additional in-home respite for carers.

Small business

The Coalition knows that small business will remain the great job generator in Australia, particularly for our youth. We will therefore continue to make it easier and less costly to run a small business by:

- ✓ Maintaining downward pressure on interest rates by balancing the Government's books and paying off Labor debt.
- ✓ Scrapping over \$10 billion in burdensome Labor taxes on business and jobs.
- ✓ Scrapping numerous tax forms.
- ✓ Most small businesses will be able to make one combined payment on one form each quarter.

Cleaner, Greener

After years of Labor's pandering to elites in the green movement to buy a few votes, the Howard Government, as promised, established the Natural Heritage Trust, the greatest environmental investment in our nation's history. We will:

- ✓ Boost the Natural Heritage Trust by \$250 million from the next 16% sale of Telstra to further help communities repair environmental problems like river, waterway, coast and ocean pollution.
- ✓ Help reduce salinity, erosion and topsoil loss, revegetation and stabilisation.

Work for the Dole

Against the constant opposition and ridicule of the Labor Party, the Coalition has introduced the principle of mutual obligation, or earning your keep, into welfare. We will continue to reform welfare to ensure the right balance between compassion and motivation, by:

- ✓ Expanding Work for the Dole from the current level of 100,000 places for 18 to 24 year olds unemployed for six months or more, to include year 12 school leavers unemployed for 3 months.
- ✓ Cracking down on welfare cheats further through surveillance, building on savings of \$46 million a week and 570,000 cheats caught.
- ✓ Keeping the two year waiting period on migrants' welfare benefits.
- ✓ Continuing the Coalition's dole diary to encourage welfare recipients to genuinely look for work - 10,000 unemployed have had their dole cancelled this year for not honouring their dole diary obligations.
- ✓ Continuing to provide New Apprenticeships, with up to 30,000 more in rural and regional Australia.

There is more to be done.

"We are determined to continue working hard for all Australians."

A stronger tax system

The Howard Government's plan will:

- ✓ Lower Australia's stifling income taxes and increase incentives to work and save.
- ✓ Remove distorted and complex taxes on business and individuals.
- ✓ Abolish Labor's growth stunting taxes and reduce red tape.
- ✓ Secure revenue for services to those best able to deliver them - the States.

Better health

Families' health is critical to our sense of security. The Coalition will:

- ✓ Give every Australian with private health insurance a 30% tax or cash rebate on the cost of their premiums, keeping the pressure off public hospitals. This is as good as or better than full tax deductibility for over 80% of people under our tax plan.
- ✓ Retain Medicare in its entirety, investing an extra \$7.2 billion over Labor's last Medicare Agreement in our public hospitals.
- ✓ Double the number of Medicare agencies in pharmacies to 1,200 to boost health services for rural and regional Australia.
- ✓ Inject over \$114 million into boosting and retaining rural and regional health services and doctors.

Education

- ✓ Provide an additional \$187 million to boost standards for literacy and school teaching.
- ✓ Keep fighting for improved literacy, numeracy and teaching standards in our schools.
- ✓ Give freedom of choice for school students and their parents while providing \$212 million more to government schools in 1998 than in Labor's last year.
- ✓ Provide \$83 million over 4 years to fund up to 30,000 more new apprenticeships in rural and regional small businesses.
- ✓ Continue university policies which have seen more total funding and undergraduate places in 1998 than in Labor's last year.

Secure jobs

In only two and a half years, the Howard Government has created 317,000 jobs. We will:

- ✓ Abolish ten growth-stunting Labor taxes on business and jobs as well as further reduce red tape so that small business has more time to get on with business and create jobs.
- ✓ Expand Work for the Dole to year 12 school leavers unemployed for 3 months, to give a total of up to 125,000 young people encouragement to find jobs and build a work ethic.
- ✓ Push ahead with our unfair dismissal legislation for small businesses' new employees in the Senate - this could create up to 50,000 jobs according to the Council of Small Business.
- ✓ Retain youth wages to protect jobs for young people. Labor's opposition to youth wages will jeopardise up to 300,000 youth jobs, according to the Australian Retailers' Association.

Standing up for older Australians

The Coalition will:

- ✓ Ease the cost of health care through a 30 per cent tax or cash rebate for private health insurance.
- ✓ Maintain Medicare, community rating and bulk billing, and provide \$7.2 billion more for public hospitals than in Labor's last Medicare Agreement.
- ✓ Abolish ten unfair and complex Labor taxes such as wholesale sales tax, which older Australians pay on thousands and thousands of everyday items, provisional tax and bank account taxes.
- ✓ Guarantee increases in pensions and other benefits will rise, and stay at 1.5% more than price increases, including the effect of the GST.
- ✓ Continue to give the Seniors Health Card to all retirees who have taxable incomes of less than \$40,000 for singles and \$67,000 for couples.
- ✓ Provide free influenza vaccinations for all Australians aged over 65.

A safer community

The Coalition will:

- ✓ Establish CrimTrac, a national crime information system to catch criminals, including paedophiles, speedily through shared information including genetic DNA data.
- ✓ Fight drug criminals with \$23.4 million to fund four more mobile drug strike teams in Sydney, Perth, Northern Australia based in Cairns, and Adelaide.
- ✓ Commit over \$31 million to boost Customs teams and technology on the ground, sea, and in the air.
- ✓ Work to ensure that drug criminals who profit from the misery they inflict on our communities are forced to pay back their illegal gains and pay appropriate compensation to victims.

Revitalising rural and regional Australia

The first Howard Government has started to turn around Labor's 13 years of neglect of rural and regional Australia. We will:

- ✓ Reduce fuel taxes by \$3.5 billion a year and reduce our exporters' costs by \$4.5 billion to make our agricultural and mining industries more competitive.
- ✓ Invest up to \$70 million to return much needed services to rural Australia, including banking, Medicare and postal services.
- ✓ Establish thirty new Regional Health Service Centres, and extend Medicare Easyclaim facilities to another 600 pharmacies in a second Coalition term, to improve health services for rural and regional Australia and boost local small businesses.
- ✓ Invest another \$195 million to improve Australia's road networks, \$80 million to continue our work fixing dangerous Blackspots on our roads, and \$20 million building better bridges for heavy transport.