The Policies & Procedures of the Family First Party

FAMILY FIRST

The objectives of Family First are:

- To be an eligible political party within the meaning of the Commonwealth Electoral Act for the purpose of nominating and endorsing candidates for election to Federal and State Parliaments so as to advance the aims of the Party.
- To prepare, promote and support legislation which will result in the health, wellbeing, welfare, safety and unity of families in Australia.
- To oppose legislation which would impact negatively upon families.
- To promote and encourage community support for the education and provision of assistance to reduce the impact of family breakdown in Australia.

Our vision:

- To have 12 Senators and hold the balance of power in the Australian Senate.
- To become the third force in Australian politics.
- To set the Agenda in the key policy areas which strengthen families, strengthen values and strengthen Australia.
- For Australia to be a ‘role model’ to emerging nations. Of the 200 countries in the world, approximately 150 of them are either third world or emerging nations. Our vision for Australia is to be an example to these nations.
Family First is a mainstream conservative party which believes in strong families, strong values and a strong Australia.

Family First believes families should be at the centre of Australian life, not politics or government bureaucracy.

1. Strong Families
A job, a home, your finances under control, a safe neighbourhood to live in, a secure retirement and a few of life’s small pleasures (going on holiday, getting your hair done, going out to dinner). These all contribute to healthy families.

Family First believes public finances should be diverted from expensive (high taxing) governments to families. When we say families, we include extended families - mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, uncles, aunts, cousins, grandparents, grandchildren.

2. Strong Values
Values are the foundation of a nation.

Family First believes in the importance of values. Values like telling the truth, living within your means, hard work, respect, courtesy, compassion, courage, generosity. But when we see cronyism, wastefulness, backstabbing, price gouging by government agencies (water prices, power prices, land prices) and politicians spending millions of dollars on themselves while hospitals and health services are being cut and pensioners can’t afford to heat or cool their homes, we know there is a lack of values and a failure of leadership.

3. Strong Australia
Anything not based on economic reality is doomed to failure. Whether it’s mining, farming, manufacturing, tourism or small business, it is a truism that capital goes where it is made welcome and stays where it gets looked after. And whilst Australia is indeed blessed with abundant natural resources, Australia’s real wealth is not beneath the ground, it is between the ears! Family First believes property rights, free markets, voluntary arrangements and effective safety nets provide the best opportunity for Australia and Australians to prosper.

A strong and prosperous nation builds up its infrastructure - roads, ports, power stations, airports and telecommunications. It also has strong defence capabilities and is able to afford the latest and best equipment for its defence forces. Australia needs a political party which understands business and how markets work; how and why investment decisions are made; how real jobs are created; and that ‘barriers to entry’ to getting a job causes unemployment.

Australian families deserve better. Australia deserves better.

Strong families, strong values, a strong Australia.

Vote 1, Family First.

Senator Bob Day AO
Federal Chairman

“Every family, a job and a house”
PARTY HISTORY

Beginnings

Many great organisations and political movements - the abolition of slavery, the civil rights movement, public education, public hospitals, social welfare and aged care organisations started in churches. Motivated by a sense of concern for others, people of goodwill established schools, hospitals, welfare agencies and many other lasting endeavours. Family First began the same way.

2000
Family First is founded in Adelaide

2002
Andrew Evans is elected to the South Australian Parliament

2004
Andrea Mason becomes the first Aboriginal woman to lead an Australian political party
Steve Fielding elected to the Senate

2006
Dennis Hood is elected to the South Australian Parliament

2008
Robert Brokenshire replaces retiring Andrew Evans
Independent
As you no longer have to be a member of a particular denomination to be admitted to these hospitals, schools or retirement villages, so it is with Family First. And whilst our Christian heritage is something we are both proud of and grateful for, Family First today is independent of any church or denomination. In the above schools, hospitals and aged care examples, the focus is on the best medicine, the best education, the best aged care. Family First works on the same principles.

Supporting families
Since it was elected to the SA parliament 10 years ago, Family First has been promoting policies and introducing legislation which puts families first, values older people, promotes home ownership, protects children, offers choice in schooling, advances youth employment (eg trade apprenticeships) and supports small (family) businesses. Family First MPs Dennis Hood & Robert Brokenshire have been at the forefront of promoting policies that support farming communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Robert Brokenshire elected to the South Australian Parliament</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Family First Secretariat opens in Adelaide</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>First National Convention held in Adelaide</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Bob Day elected to the Senate</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Dennis Hood re-elected</td>
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Linda Rose receives the 2012 Andrew Evans Award
Bruce & Margaret Vivian receive the 2013 Andrew Evans Award
“Put Family First”
Our starting point is that families come first. As the fundamental building block of society, we diminish their capacity to function effectively at our peril. The wellbeing of families is a powerful barometer for the wellbeing of the nation. Our definition of families is mums, dads, sisters, brothers, cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, grandchildren, singles, single parents – people who interact and care for one another.

“Choice in schooling”
Parents increasingly choose to send their children to schools that reflect the values that are important to them. At Family First we are committed to choice in education. We believe that both public and private schools must be adequately resourced to enable the delivery of high quality education and to ensure that the rights of parents to choose is respected and supported.

“A home of your own”
We want to make sure Australian homebuyers can own their home by the time they retire. Family First is committed to keeping the Great Australian Dream alive.

“Aboriginal Affairs”
 Australians have a right to live in a country free from racial discrimination and racial preference. It is the duty of government to protect that right. If a person needs assistance, their race or ethnicity should be irrelevant.

“Global Impact”
Australia has much to offer to the world. We have become one of the most stable and prosperous nations on earth, but with privilege comes responsibility and the way we rise to meet these responsibilities will ultimately determine if we truly are a great nation.

“Jobs, jobs, jobs”
The tragedy of workplace regulation is that while it seeks to protect the interests of those who have a job it effectively keeps out those who do not. Accordingly, Family First is committed to removing the ‘barriers to entry’ to getting a job or working more hours. The low skilled and least able are the most vulnerable. Pricing people out of the job market denies them the opportunity to buy a house and lead a happy and prosperous life. This is not just bad for the economy it is morally wrong.

“Fighting Poverty”
Nearly half the world’s population survive on incomes of less than $2 a day. Their struggle however is not just a financial one but one that involves holding at bay the twin perils of hunger and disease. At Family First we believe that the plight of the poor, whether in Australia or in other parts of the world, is a collective responsibility.
“Small Business”
Small businesses are family businesses and are the lifeblood of the economy. Whilst big business is actively investing in technology to reduce its workforce, small business offers the greatest opportunities for employment growth. Family First is committed to getting the government off the back and out of the pocket of small businesses.

“Tax”
Income tax, company tax, payroll tax, petrol tax, goods & services tax (GST), the Medicare levy, the emergency services levy, the River Murray levy. Governments - State and Federal, tax us at every turn. The capacity of politicians and public servants to spend our taxes knows no bounds. If the Australian tax system is to offer incentives to be productive, to expand activities, to shift from welfare to work, to pay tax and invest in the future then it must be simple, flat and, in the eyes of taxpayers, a fair system.

“Water”
Water is one of the most important challenges facing our country. The water we drink, the food we eat and the health and sustainability of our river systems are of vital interest to all Australians. Family First believes Australian families are entitled to get clean water out of the tap at prices that do not burden low and middle income households.

“Climate Change”
Climate change has been occurring since time immemorial. Many hundreds of eminent scientists have strongly criticised both the ‘climate change doctrine’ and the predictions made by the International Panel on Climate Change. Claims that ‘there is a scientific consensus’ and ‘the science is settled’ are simply not true.

“Property Rights”
Property rights provide the foundation on which many other rights and privileges are exercised. The progressive erosion of the rights of property owners through heritage listing, water restrictions, native vegetation, rising sea levels, zoning legislation and various court decisions is significantly diminishing the opportunities for self reliance.

“Life is precious”
Family First believes life is precious and is committed to healing, caring for and saving lives wherever possible - the dignity and value of older people is particularly important.

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“Disability Support”
The greatest respect a person can be shown is to be fully included. At Family First we are committed to supporting practical initiatives that enable people with disabilities to be included in recreation, work and community life to the full extent of their ability. This means advocating for support where support is needed; seeking systemic change where systems fail to offer opportunities for growth and development all of us expect, and importantly, ensuring that every citizen, regardless of their ability, is assisted in claiming their human and democratic rights.

“YOUTH”
- Relationships, independence, a rewarding career. Family First believes the opportunity to travel, buy a house, a reliable car and other important communication tools are important.
- Family First is a Party of values. It treats issues like poverty, corruption and injustice with great importance.
- Family First is the Party that ‘loves life’. It helps those in need and those who are suffering.
Family First, or to use its full legal term ‘Family First Party Australia Ltd’ is a company limited by guarantee registered with the Australian Security & Investment Commission (ASIC) and the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). Family First is comprised of a Federal Party and six separate State Parties which co-ordinate operations across Australia. Each State organisation is run autonomously with its own constitution.

Members of the State Executives are drawn from the State membership lists and nominations to serve on a State Executive can be made by any member of the Party within a particular State and those applications are dealt with pursuant to the rules of that State. In most cases, voting for the State Executive occurs at State Annual General Meetings. Office holders (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) are also elected at the State Annual General Meetings.

The State organisations have two primary roles - to co-ordinate State elections and during Federal election campaigns to nominate and endorse Federal election candidates. Each State’s lead Senate candidate must be endorsed by the Federal Executive.

The Federal Executive is responsible for day to day running of the national organisation, and holds the intellectual property of the Family First ‘brand’. It licences the use of the Family First name to the State Parties. The Federal Executive has representatives from the various states and is headquartered at the Family First Secretariat in South Australia. It holds Executive meetings, Annual General Meetings, co-ordinates a National Conference every two years and a National Convention also every two years. Members of the Federal Executive Committee are nominated by delegates from the State Executives to the Party’s National Conference, and the National Conference is also responsible for setting the policy platforms of the party.
A political party is only as good as the people who represent it. Accordingly, Family First seeks to recruit candidates and staff who represent the Party and its policies with excellence, integrity and respect.

The following principles guide our values and behaviour:

1. **EXCELLENCE**
   We do things well. We are efficient. We are proactive in aiming for excellence in all that we do.

2. **INTEGRITY**
   We are trustworthy in all our dealings. We speak the truth at all times.

3. **RESPECT**
   We treat everyone we meet with courtesy and respect, regardless of their station in life. We listen attentively and want to understand and acknowledge what is important to people.

4. **DISCIPLINE**
   We are part of a team. The Family First team is committed to one another and to working in the interests of the whole team. We seek to resolve problems and/or disagreements in an open and honest way.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS**
   We honour the commitments we make. We do not promise what is not within our power to deliver.

6. **POLICIES**
   We are committed to supporting and upholding the policy positions and values of Family First.

7. **TRANSPARENCY**
   We are open and transparent. If a matter arises that may affect the Party or another team member or be detrimental to the good name of Family First we declare it openly and promptly.

**Becoming a Family First Candidate**

People seeking to represent Family First in the parliament must submit a completed Candidate Application Form (available from the Secretariat) to the State Executive.

In the case of Upper House Candidates, the Lead Candidate must be approved and endorsed by both the State and Federal Executives of the Party.

**Accountability**

Accountability is fundamentally important to discipline and the effective working of the Party. Staff and Candidates must be accountable to their State Executives.
FAMILY FIRST
STATE DIVISIONS

South Australia
The SA division of Family First has been an outstanding success. First elected at the 2002 State Election, Family First has two members in the Legislative Council - Dennis Hood and Robert Brokenshire. Dennis and Robert have been responsible for substantial legislative change in the South Australian parliament.

Western Australia
The WA division, ably led by Linda Rose has seen Family First represented at every State and Federal election since 2002 and whilst the Family First vote has not yet achieved political representation the momentum is growing and its presence important.

Queensland
Not having an Upper House of Parliament makes it extremely difficult for Family First to get a foothold in the Queensland State Parliament, hence Queensland’s focus on the Federal parliament. It is here where Family First has the greatest potential to secure its first Family First Senator at the next Federal election.

Victoria
Having had the benefit of a Victorian Family First Senator for six years, Victoria is well placed to build its organisational base and grow the Party in this State. State Director Ashley Fenn leads a professional team committed to regaining a seat in Parliament.

New South Wales
With Sally’s move from Queensland to NSW, Family First is confident that it will soon see its first NSW Senator elected to the Federal Parliament.

Tasmania
After an impressive debut at the 2004 and 2007 Federal elections Family First is poised to take a Senate seat at the next Federal election. Being the home of the Greens, Tasmania is fertile ground for Family First.
CONTACT US

We trust this Policies and Procedures manual has helped give you a better understanding of Family First and what it is trying to achieve on behalf of Australian families.

We welcome your feedback. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

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