

# STOP POPULATION GROWTH NOW

## Party of Australia

Newsletter

Issue No. 18

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### Election results

As previously advised, Alex (andra) Hodges and myself stood for the Legislative Council in the March state election, as candidates for our party.

We received 3,884 first preference votes out of 1,010,931 formal votes cast, or about 0.4% of the vote.

Obviously we would have liked to have received more, but, given the miniscule budget we had for advertising, the result was not unexpected.

A few points of interest:-

1. 25 parties or groups, comprising 63 candidates, contested. We received more votes than 11 of those, including the Nationals, and the Katter Party.
2. The Xenophon group placed us absolutely last on their recommended preferences. I have always suspected they are pro population growth, but they don't make that clear in their public statements..
3. The SA Greens gave us a high preference. Indeed, in the lead up to the election, the SA Greens strengthened their population policy to support zero population growth within a generation. Whilst this is still far short of what we stand for, it is a step in the right direction. Note however, the SA Greens policy has not been adopted by the national Greens organisation.
4. During the count, the flow of preferences resulted in me being eliminated at position 43.i.e. 42 candidates were eliminated before me. 63 candidates stood. 11 candidates were elected i.e. positions 53 to 63.
5. The last candidate eliminated (at position 52) was from the Shooters and Fishers Party. They received 13,608 votes.
6. The Palmer United Party received 16,603 votes or 1.6%. They clearly spent a lot of money on their campaign in SA.
7. During the campaign, we were invited to become part of a group of parties co-ordinated by the so called "preference whisperer" Glen Druery (he played a significant part in getting minor parties elected to the Australian Senate last year). It was intended that members of this group would swap preferences to maximise their chances of being elected. We chose, on principle, not to participate in this.

Our big problem in the election was lack of money for advertising. By the time we paid the candidate deposits (\$6000) and paid for the nearly 500 corflutes we erected (approx. \$4200), we had little money left for letterbox flyers, or anything else. It is my view that it is a waste of time to attempt this again without a significant advertising budget (say \$100,0000). Whilst the

Advertiser and regional newspapers were reasonably good in publishing some of our Letters, and the commercial radio stations took some of our calls, we needed a lot more exposure. I am still quite annoyed that the ABC saw fit to send me a 5 page letter explaining why they would not give us any exposure (apparently they only give exposure to parties with established public support!!) Unfortunately, the ABC has never demonstrated any particular enthusiasm for the zero population growth issue.

Finally, I want to thank the many people who helped us during the campaign. Members and supporters erected corflutes, letterboxed leaflets, and donated money. It was all very much appreciated.

There are 3 persons I would like to specifically thank. John Coulter used his great knowledge of the voting system to help with negotiating preferences. Michael Lardelli did a splendid job in designing the corflutes, which received considerable attention. Finally, my sincere thanks to Alex for putting up her hand to be a candidate.

#### The future of SPGN

The Management Committee has met to consider this question, but has not yet finalised a position. We need to further consider adding policies on matters apart from population, whether it would be sensible to join forces with other parties, how we can raise more funds, whether we should contest elections outside SA, etc etc. The suggestions of members on this, and other matters, would be welcomed.

For the time being, we will continue as is i.e. continue to publicise our policy as best we can, and continue to recruit members. We will also seek persons who may be prepared to stand for councils as our candidates (see next para).

#### Call for persons to nominate for councils

As most are aware, local council elections will occur in November this year. SPGN is seeking persons who would be prepared to stand as candidates, and who would be prepared to push the issue of zero population growth as part of council policies. Nominations close 12 noon on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Further details are available at <http://www.lga.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=2644>.

SPGN would be prepared to support the election of candidates by utilising the corflutes we used in the recent SA election (suitably modified) and possibly assisting in other ways.

#### Public meeting

Dr John Coulter will be giving a lecture on “The Ethics of Migration” commencing 3 pm on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July at the Conservation Council at 157 Franklin St Adelaide. This will follow the AGM of the SA Branch of Sustainable Population Australia (a non political body that promotes zero population growth).

Readers are encouraged to attend. There is no charge.

Cheers

Bob Couch, Convenor, SPGN