

# Queensland Christian Values Checklist

## Comments on policies and party positions

### February 2009 – for election 21 March 2009

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The **Australian Christian Values Checklist** assesses the positions of the major political parties on a range of issues of concern to Christians. The Checklist has been prepared by the [Australian Christian Values Institute](#).

This summary of the positions of major parties on issues of concern to Christians is provided as a service to the Christian community. In the 2006 Census 64% Australians identified themselves as Christians. This checklist has been compiled after an exhaustive search of party websites, voting history, statements, including in some cases the voting record of their Federal counterparts.

Positions are often difficult to summarise in a format of this kind, and parties have not always made definitive statements. Therefore a "?" indicates in some instances a conscience vote, or a less than conclusive opinion on the party's position on some of the issues. A Tick equals YES X equals NO.

This document provides clarifying statements and references on some of the policy positions for some of the parties – in particular the comments and links address matters where the position was not necessarily clear and thus documentation is provided to substantiate the position listed.

The actual **Australian Christian Values Checklist** for the Queensland election in March 2009 can be found on the [ACVI website](#).

**A SECOND EDITION of the Checklist was released on 12 March – with some changes. The changes relate to Q14, 20 and 25. The relevant changes are noted under those questions.**

Links to all the political parties and their policy pages is provided on **Page 8** of the document.

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## 1. Support the opening of Parliament each day with Christian prayer

Queensland has ONE prayer to open proceedings in the Legislative Assembly. It does not add the Lord's prayer. The prayer is longer and more detailed – and does include the name of Jesus Christ.

See this [speech by Fred Nile](#)... The prayer is "MOST GRACIOUS GOD: We humbly beseech thee, as for this State in general, so especially for the Parliament of Queensland under our most religious and gracious Queen at this time assembled..... we humbly beg in the name and mediation of Jesus Christ, our Most Blessed Lord and Saviour. AMEN.

There was some discussion of an Inquiry being held by the Parliament about inserting a Preamble into the Queensland Constitution and the effect this may have on the Christian prayer that is used to open Parliament.

The [Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee](#) has been conducting the Inquiry. The Committee issued an **Issues Paper** which included a section about the reference to God This was phrased as a question, and did not recommend a particular position.

Inquiry details and Issues Paper – click [here](#).

With the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly for the election, this Committee [ceased to exist](#).

It was decided that this Inquiry should not affect the positions given to particular parties on the question of prayer to open Parliament.

**Labor:** Back in October, the Federal Labor government supported prayer in the federal parliament when the Speaker suggested possibly removing it...

**Govt, Opposition united in prayer stance**

ABC, Oct 26, 2008.

The Federal Government and Opposition have both given the thumbs down to calls to change or abandon the Lord's Prayer recited at the beginning of each day of federal Parliament. But the Greens want the prayer replaced with a period of reflection and a conscience vote in both houses on the issue.

## 6. Protect life in the womb - refuse to support the decriminalisation of abortion

**Liberal:** Two quotes from Mr Springborg re life issues:

In a survey by Queensland RTL (now Cherish Life)...

for last election – he is listed as ‘Nationals’ – and on their old website....

- “Qld Coalition supports the existing Qld Criminal Code in relation to abortion and euthanasia.”
- See <http://www.qrtl.org.au/images/graph.PDF>

**Labor:** Labor MP Bonny Barry has proposed the idea of a private member’s bill to decriminalise abortion. Premier Anna Bligh said in 2007 that she would support such a bill, but didn’t intend to introduce such a bill.

Following the passing of Victoria’s law to decriminalise abortion, put forward by Labor, and the fact that the legalisation/decriminalisation is in the [ALP National Platform \(Ch 13, No 21\)](#), it is quite likely that the decriminalisation of abortion would be on the agenda if Labor is re-elected.

**Article:**

**Abortion on Labor agenda**

QUEENSLAND could decriminalise abortion in Premier Anna Bligh's first term in Government. *Courier Mail*, 28 Oct, 2007.

“Aspley MP Bonny Barry is preparing to introduce a Private Member's Bill to remove abortion from the criminal code within the next 18 months, after being encouraged by Ms Bligh in mid-2000 to put the plan on ice.

Ms Bligh told The Courier-Mail she would support a Bill to decriminalise abortion. . .”

**Emily’s List** – Emily’s List is a group that assists Labor women get elected – but they have to support abortion in order to get assistance.

Emily’s List candidates for Queensland should be at [this link](#) – but it is not available yet...

The [WEB ARCHIVE for this page](#) – as edited by them at August 2007 - shows the candidates as at the LAST election (2006) – many of these will be standing again, so check it out!

It lists 18 women – of whom 13 were MPs – Anna Bligh is listed as a member.

## 7. Prohibit cloning or the use of embryos for stem cell research

There was a vote in the Queensland parliament in 2007. The Bill allowed the use and creation of embryos for the purposes of embryonic stem cell research.

The vote in the Legislative Assembly is recorded in this document:

[How the politicians voted on the “Research Involving Human Embryos and Prohibition of Human Cloning Amendment Bill 2007](#)

**FOR**

Liberal – 4

Nationals – 4

Labor – 39

**AGAINST**

Liberal – 3

Nationals – 11

Labor – 15

Independents – 4

One Nation – 1

**Overall:**

Lib/National – 8 FOR, 14  
AGAINST

Labor – 39 FOR; 15  
AGAINST

Mr Springborg voted  
**against** the Bill.

**8. Voluntary euthanasia to remain illegal****Liberal National**

There is no mention of this in their policy. However, in the last election, Mr Springborg was [quoted](#) in a survey by **Queensland RTL** (now **Cherish Life**)...

- *“Qld Coalition supports the existing Qld Criminal Code in relation to abortion and euthanasia.”*

**9. Retain current age of consent to protect our children's sexual integrity**

The current age of consent in Queensland is 16 for heterosexual sex and 18 for homosexual (anal) sex. The homosexual lobby is asking for this to be changed.

However the Queensland Attorney General has rejected this at present.

However, Queensland Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Kerry Shine, dismissed calls for an equal age of consent.

“As I have previously informed Mr Frame, the government has no plans to alter the applicable laws at this time,” Shine told *Queensland Pride*.

See [Article](#) in the homosexual media (16 Feb 2009).

**11. Reduce violence and raise moral standards on TV, DVD, film, print & radio**

**Family First** has a [policy](#) calling for higher standards on TV standards – including ads, movie videos and programs.

**12. Support internet filtering of pornography in all libraries**

**Family First** has a [policy](#) calling for internet filtering in libraries...

**DLP: Has a policy calling for protection of children against pornography but not explicitly mentioning libraries.**

**Policy:** “Support for more effective State and Federal legislation to control the display and distribution of video and internet pornography and violence, with particular regard to the foremost consideration in all cases - the need to protect children from harm.”

**13. Protect the vulnerable - criminalise soliciting for prostitution**

**Family First** does not mention prostitution in any of their policy documents.

However in the statement made to **Australia Votes** (ACL) at the last federal election, they said “Family First opposes prostitution...” and called for the Swedish model of criminalising the person soliciting to be implemented.

**Statement:** “Family First opposes prostitution. Family First wants the Parliament to investigate the existing Swedish laws which have reduced prostitution in Sweden. The Swedish model focuses on demand by penalising men who purchase women for sex. Women in prostitution are helped to leave the industry by government-funded exit programs. Family First will work on behalf of the women who are trapped in this industry, to protect them and their welfare.”

**DLP** does not mention prostitution anywhere on their Queensland or national policies pages.

**14. Give all councils the right to veto brothels**

**Most parties do not have listed policies on this issue.**

Since it is a current issue with respect to the Toowoomba Council facing this issue at present, it is an important issue in this election.

## **UPDATE – SECOND EDITION**

### **Family First and the Liberal National Party both have a policy to allow Councils to veto brothels.**

Both parties responded to the **Queensland Votes** survey done by the Australian Christian Lobby - click [here](#) for the question and responses re councils vetoing brothels..

The Liberal National Party published a [Media Release](#) dated 11 February 2009 stating their policy on councils being able to veto brothels.

### **15. Ban advertising of prostitution - exploits women & promotes sex slavery**

**None of the parties – including Family First and the DLP - have listed policies on this issue.**

### **16. Children need mum & dad - No IVF for single women & same sex couples**

**Family First** – there is no reference on their policy pages.

However, in a [statement](#) to Australia votes in 2007 they said:

- Family First believes the best environment for a child is to be raised by a mother and a father.
- Family First will support laws that ensure that children are not made deliberately fatherless or motherless.

There is also a quote on this topic, opposing this, reported in the Melbourne [media](#) during the 2006 Victorian election campaign.

**DLP: Policy** - “Statutory recognition of the principle that no child should be conceived to be borne and reared deliberately deprived of a father as in the cases of single women and lesbians accessing artificial reproduction technologies including IVF.”

### **17. Protect biological birthright - oppose the legalisation of surrogacy**

#### **Family First**

\* No policy on their website policies page...

\* [Speech](#) by Andrew Evans (SA) on surrogacy.

States that he understands why people want this but goes on to point out major problems and refers to a Health Ministers’ debate where it was unanimously rejected. However, he does not state a definitive position.

\* [statement](#) on Australia votes says:

- Family First believes the best environment for a child is to be raised by a mother and a father.
- Family First will support laws that ensure that children are not made deliberately fatherless or motherless.

**DLP:** No specific mention of surrogacy on their policy page.

**From policy** - “Statutory recognition of the principle that no child should be conceived to be borne and reared deliberately deprived of a father as in the cases of single women and lesbians accessing artificial reproduction technologies including IVF. ...

“An acknowledgement in all legislation affecting families of the need to preserve and protect the institution of marriage and of the need to maintain the moral, social, legal and economic support of the traditional family unit as the most effective (including cost-effective) means to safeguard children from the harm of exploitation, violence, pornography, drugs and crime.”

## **18. Oppose civil unions & relationship registers for same-sex couples**

### **Family First**

\* No mention in policies on website.

\* **Speech** by Andrew Evans on domestic partnerships – Dec 2006, explores the idea of caring relationships and supports those – perhaps rather than supporting a sexual relationship homosexual version... See

\* Correspondence: Prior to the last federal election we asked Family First for their position on this issue and got this reply by email–

“Family First opposes relationship registers for same-sex couples, because they undermine marriage.”  
Email– 25 Oct 2007.

HOWEVER – this has not been listed in their policy documents...

### **DLP: Policy -**

“Abolition of the dishonestly named Family Court of Australia, exposure of its destructive ideology and its harm done to children through easy divorce and the court-instigated break-up of their families and rescission of all court rulings that serve to undermine marriage or **degrade it by conferring on homosexual, lesbian and transsexual pairings equivalent standing with marriage.**

After discussion with the DLP in Victoria – they came up with policy opposing relationship registers – and Peter Kavanagh (DLP member) voted against it...

## **19. Children need a mother & father - reject homosexual adoption**

### **Family First –**

\* **Policy** on adoption -

“FAMILY FIRST believes the best environment for a child to be raised in is for the child to have a mother and a father;

• FAMILY FIRST recognises the essential, important and satisfying role of mothers and fathers and that parents have the primary responsibility for raising and educating their children;”

**There is NO mention of same sex couples and adoption.**

\* This **policy comparison** for the 2006 Victorian election mentions that the Greens want same sex marriage and adoption – then shows FF supporting marriage but no mention of same-sex adoption. This **article** comments on that comparison paper.

\* There is a Family First **document** that mentions Family First in SA (Andrew Evans) running a campaign against IVF/adoption for homosexuals in SA.

**DLP** – no mention of adoption by same-sex couples on policy page.  
However they do support marriage and oppose homosexual IVF.

**Liberal National – Adoption:**

\* In 2003 Mr Springborg made a [statement to Festival of Light](#) (now Family Voice Australia)  
“**Opposition Leader Lawrence Springborg says the Queensland Coalition will oppose any move to allow same-sex adoption.**

In a recent letter to a Festival of Light supporter, Mr Springborg wrote:

“The Queensland Coalition believes that marriage is a relationship between male and female and accordingly does not support any moves to recognise, as marriage, relationships between persons of the same gender... the Queensland Coalition does not support any concept of adoption of children by same sex couples.”

\* **Federal Liberal –April 2008**

Then leader Brendan Nelson [said](#) “We will not support gay marriage, gay IVF or gay adoption”.

**Labor:**

18 Feb 2009 – Labor put a new Bill to the Queensland Parliament on adoption – it extended the law to allow heterosexual de facto couples to adopt - **BUT NOT homosexual couples.**

Click [here](#) for article in homosexual media.

## **20. Remain free - remove religious & homosexual anti-discrimination**

No parties have actual policies to remove discrimination laws.

### **UPDATE: SECOND EDITION**

Family First generally opposes discrimination laws and Andrew Evans has spoken against them in the South Australian Parliament.

However, the question of removing discrimination laws that already exist is a different question.

**Family First's score has been raised to a '?'**

## **21. Repeal all vilification laws to protect free speech**

**Family First** – no recorded policy on this topic.

However, in Victoria in 2006, they called for the repeal of the religious vilification law at a ‘Coalition for Free Speech’ rally.

**DLP** – opposed vilification laws and supported repeal in Victoria.

**Liberal** – called for repeal and re-assessment of the law in Victoria prior to the 2006 election. No comment in policies for the current election.

**Labor** – they introduced the laws.

**Greens** – had supported repeal of religious vilification law in Victoria – but would definitely support retention of sexuality vilification law.

## **22. Reduce the number of gambling venues and gaming machines**

**Family First**

\* **Have no stated policy on this but...**

\*Andrew Evans has [called for](#) a reduction of gaming machine numbers.

\* A Victorian election [media release](#) called for pokies to be taken out of suburbs

**Labor** – stopped release of new poker machines in April 2008 for a two-year period.

Click [here](#) for media article.

No mention of reducing the current number of machines.

### **Greens**

The Greens do not have a formal policy to reduce the number of venues or gaming machines. However, one candidate has [said](#) he wants to reduce the number of gaming machines in Cairns.

## **23. Maintain criminal penalties for use and possession of all illicit drugs**

**DLP- Policy:** “Compulsory treatment, under the jurisdiction of suitably constituted community-based "drug courts", in preference to prison terms for offenders convicted for possession and use of illicit drugs but not otherwise involved in the drug trade.”

**Liberal National** – No specific policy on this, but they have [called for](#) mandatory and compulsory rehabilitation of drug addicts (with penalties following if a person leaves the rehab).

## **24. Remove alcohol advertising to reduce damaging effects of alcohol abuse**

### **Family First**

Binge Drinking [Policy](#) to “restrict TV and radio alcohol advertising to after 9pm and before 5am to stop alcohol being marketed to young people; require all alcohol ads to be pre-approved by a government body; and ban alcohol ads which are aimed at children or which link drinking to personal, business, social, sporting, sexual or other success”.

**DLP** - No mention of alcohol in policies.

**Greens** – Only [mention](#) of alcohol is “Reform legislation in order to treat violence associated with alcohol and drug abuse as a health and social problem rather than a law and order issue.” They have [lobbied](#) for alcohol and drug rehabs.

## **25. Restore Upper House to Queensland Parliament to bring back accountability**

**Family First:** At the time of the first edition there was no mention anywhere on their website of such a reform.

### **UPDATE: SECOND EDITION**

**Family First** has now published a policy in favour of restoring an Upper House in Queensland. Click [here](#) to read the policy on their website.

**DLP:** Queensland State policy – They say they want either an Upper House **OR** proportional representation.

However, in their Overall policy they say “Abolition of the Upper House (in relevant States) upon proportional representation in the Lower House of Parliament being adopted.”

Thus their preference seemed to be for NO Upper House anywhere.

### **UPDATE: SECOND EDITION**

The DLP has two different forms of their policy on an Upper House - Queensland candidates have informed us they are asking for an Upper House in their election material.

**Thus the score for the DLP on the question of an Upper House, in the SECOND EDITION, has been improved to a '?'.**

**Liberal Nat** – No mention in their **Parliamentary Reform policy**.

**Greens** - No mention - in Greens **Parliamentary reform policy** - for a second upper house. They want proportional representation in the Legislative Assembly.

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## Websites and policy documents

### Family First:

Website: <http://www.familyfirst.org.au/>

Policies: <http://www.familyfirst.org.au/familyfirst.php>

Core Values and Beliefs – Queensland-

<http://www.familyfirstqld.org.au/FFP%20Qld%20Core%20Values%20and%20Beliefs.pdf>

### DLP

Website: <http://dlp.org.au>

Queensland election policies: <http://dlp.org.au/queensland-election-2009.html>

Policies: <http://dlp.org.au/policies-of-the-dlp.html/>

### Liberal National Party

Website: <http://www.lnp.org.au/index1.htm>

Policies: <http://www.lnp.org.au/policies/266.html>

State policies also at <http://www.springborg.com/policy/lawrence-policy/423.html>

### Labor Party

Website: <http://www.qld.alp.org.au/default.asp>

Policies: [http://www.qld.alp.org.au/01\\_cms/details.asp?ID=457](http://www.qld.alp.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=457)

### Greens

Election Website: <http://qld.greens.org.au/election>

Policies: <http://qld.greens.org.au/election/policy>

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The Australian Christian Values Checklist, and this document, **Checklist Comments**, have been prepared by the **Australian Christian Values Institute**.

#### Statement on the actual Checklist:

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