



## VOTING FOR COMPASSION AND COURAGE

### **NetAct urges a fair deal for all**

The approaching Federal Election has engendered much publicity and disturbing polarisation. As a response to this, NetAct (a project of Catholic social justice, welfare and educational agencies) has produced an Election Kit inviting voters to consider thoughtfully the critical issues facing Australians at this time.

“The sloganeering and personal attacks flooding the media during these weeks are the direct opposite of what our country really needs,” said Father Claude Mostowik, NetAct committee member and president of Pax Christi Australia. “We hope that this Kit counters some of the shallow and misleading point-scoring.”

The NetAct Kit invites Australians to consider their decisions from the baseline of compassion and courage. It seems that the human and faith dimensions of significant issues are often ignored in the ongoing debate and political wrangling. This is of particular concern in the current climate when conviction politics has been replaced by retail politics. In this climate, many are asking, not what are the values that underpin our decisions, but what sells most effectively, and will be of greatest benefit to the individual. The recent budget is a classic example of this disturbing trend.

“As we prepare for the Federal Election”, said Fr Mostowik, “we are reminded of the values which we hope will guide us at this time – human dignity, human rights, the common good, ecological responsibility, a fair deal for all, and a preference for those ‘made’ poor by current structures ...so that our vote is not just a vote, but a just vote.”

We trust that this Kit will assist you to consider which Parties/candidates would be most likely to work for structures and policies which would support these values and a sustainable way of living on earth. A real challenge for us all.

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***NetAct*** Your voice strengthens our voice

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