



CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE  
OF SYDNEY

## NSW ELECTION GUIDE 2019

**Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,**

The NSW State Election will take place on Saturday, 23 March 2019. It is important that we all cast our vote in accordance with our conscience, informed by a profound respect for the dignity of the human person, from conception until natural death, and for the common good of the community.

The next term of the NSW Parliament will confront serious issues including religious freedom, abortion and euthanasia, education and homelessness, and we need to exercise our vote with a mind to which persons and parties might best respond to these important matters. The Archdiocese invited the major parties to provide responses to a series of questions about the parties' stance on some of the most critical issues at stake in this election.

This year, we invited minor parties to provide responses as well, because recent history has shown the difference that a single vote or small number of votes can make when

legislation about key social issues is put before parliament. In NSW, a bill that would have allowed euthanasia was defeated in the NSW Upper House by a single vote, and at a federal level, a bill that would have paved the way for euthanasia in the territories was defeated by just two votes. It is important to carefully and separately consider your vote in each House of Parliament, and I hope the guide assists you in making those choices.

Let us continue to pray for our leaders, for all men and women called to public service, and for our fellow citizens as they approach the coming election, that they may exercise their vote with respect for the dignity of the human person and for the common good of the state.

**Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP**  
Archbishop of Sydney

## THE ISSUES

1. **Schools – Anti-Discrimination Legislation**
2. **Confessional Seal – Mandatory Reporting**
3. **Abortion And Euthanasia**
4. **Special Religious Education (SRE) In Public Schools**
5. **Funding For Catholic Schools**
6. **Housing Affordability**

ISSUE	SCHOOLS - ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION	CONFESSIONAL SEAL - MANDATORY REPORTING	ABORTION AND EUTHANASIA	SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE) IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	FUNDING FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	HOUSING AFFORDABILITY
 <p>Australian Conservatives ...a better way for New South Wales</p>	<p>Supports retention of protections in relation to staff, enrolment and policy matters.</p>	<p>Opposes moves to legally require priests to disclose information revealed to them during confession.</p>	<p>Supportive of current prohibitions against both.</p>	<p>SRE should continue to be provided in government schools.</p>	<p>Support adequately funding religious schools.</p>	<p>Support laws and policies that will make housing more affordable especially for low-moderate income earners.</p>
 <p>Christian Democratic Party</p>	<p>Supports retention of faith-based exemptions relating to staffing, enrolment and policy matters.</p>	<p>Exemption for confessional seal should remain.</p>	<p>Supportive of current prohibitions against both.</p>	<p>Will continue to work closely with Christian communities to ensure SRE stays in NSW schools.</p>	<p>The CDP will ensure Catholic schools in NSW are represented and fairly receive funding.</p>	<p>Strong government leadership is essential, to drive the necessary reforms for sustainable growth in social and affordable housing.</p>
 <p>THE GREENS</p>	<p>Will campaign to remove exemptions for religious schools.</p>	<p>Confessional seal has been used to protect paedophile priests and should be abolished.</p>	<p>Favours legalising both.</p>	<p>SRE should be banned. Religious indoctrination has no place in government schools.</p>	<p>It is not the job of the NSW government to make Catholic schools affordable; public funds should be directed to public schools.</p>	<p>Will create 300,000 social homes over 10 years to meet gaps in low-cost rental housing.</p>
 <p>Labor</p>	<p>Will conduct a full review of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act.</p>	<p>Failure to report should not be excused because information was obtained in confession.</p>	<p>Conscience vote for members.</p>	<p>Continue to support the role SRE plays in teaching children in public schools about their faith.</p>	<p>Supports the push for needs-based funding of schools across all sectors in the state.</p>	<p>Deliver a 25% affordable housing mandate on govt-owned land a 15% affordable housing mandate on privately developed land.</p>
 <p>LIBERAL</p>	<p>Will consider recommendations from the Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry.</p>	<p>Addressing the issue of confessional privilege requires a national approach.</p>	<p>Conscience vote for members.</p>	<p>Supportive of and committed to SRE.</p>	<p>Committed to recurrent and capital funding of non-government schools.</p>	<p>Building 23,500 new and replacement social and affordable housing dwellings over the next 10 years.</p>
 <p>PAULINE HANSON'S ONE NATION</p>	<p>The exemptions should be retained.</p>	<p>Confessional seal should be maintained.</p>	<p>Conscience vote for members.</p>	<p>Strongly support the SRE program.</p>	<p>Support any extra funding provided to needy Catholic schools.</p>	<p>Main policy is to reduce the national immigration rate, thereby reducing the demand for housing.</p>
 <p>SHOOTERS FISHERS FARMERS</p>	<p>Supports employing staff in religious schools that share the belief systems of that school.</p>	<p>The confessional seal does not hinder the reporting of abuse.</p>	<p>Conscience vote for members.</p>	<p>Support the continuance of SRE in schools.</p>	<p>All schools should be funded equitably and we will push for this to occur.</p>	<p>Supports the need for affordable housing across NSW.</p>