



# NSW ELECTION 2011

*Essential Pro-Life*

## VOTING GUIDE



FAMILY LIFE INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

### The Upper House (Legislative Council)

This part of the guide is dedicated to the Upper House of the New South Wales parliament (the Legislative Council). The Legislative Council has 42 members, each of whom serve an eight-year term. As elections are held every four years this means that upper house members who were elected in 2007 are not facing re-election (they will have to face the ballot in 2015). At this election 21 members have reached the end of their 8-year term. It is these 21 members whose voting records are included on the reverse page.

There are no specific electorates because each candidate is on the same state-wide ballot paper. The voting process is similar to that of a Federal Senate election where a voter usually selects the party of their choice rather than individual candidates. The parties themselves place the candidates in a pre-arranged order down the ballot during a hotly contested internal process called 'pre-selection'. Obviously, the major party candidates pre-selected as number 1 on the legislative council ballot for their particular party will be elected. The closer a candidate is to the top of the ballot the better his chances of getting elected. For example, at the 2007 election the top 9 Labor candidates were elected and the top 8 Liberal/National candidates were elected.

Voters who place their first preference next to a major party in the Legislative Council run the risk of their vote assisting a pro-abortion candidate getting elected. However, like the Senate elections for Federal parliament, minor parties are able to have their candidates elected to the upper house. Pro-lifers must consider the option of voting for a minor party which has a more consistent pro-life ethic.

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### Important upper house candidates running at this election

**David Clarke (Liberal):** Number four on the Liberal ballot, this pro-life candidate will certainly be re-elected. Factional disputes within the Liberal Party saw Mr Clarke's pre-selection momentarily threatened. He has been a consistent pro-life vote in the parliament and the media has often labelled him a 'right-wing Catholic' for defending traditional values. Proudly anti-abortion and a vigorous organiser of socially conservative members within the party.

**Greg Donnelly (Labor):** Number two on the Labor ballot and will be re-elected. He is the only Labor candidate for the upper house who has not voted for any anti-life legislation. However, unlike David Clarke he did not vote against the *Relationship Register Bill* (he did not have a vote recorded on this bill). He spoke about the inviolability of all human life in his maiden speech. He is considered the most conservative ALP member of the upper house.

**Paul Green (Christian Democrats):** The CDP currently has one member of parliament (their founder Fred Nile). Paul Green is a married father of six and has been the Mayor of Shoalhaven Council since 2008. Mr Green stated in a pledge at the opening of his campaign, "I am standing because I care about our communities, families and our Christian values". If elected he will be a reliable pro-life vote just like his leader Fred Nile.

**Gordon Moyes (Family First):** Parted ways with the Christian Democratic Party after some internal controversy. As shown on the reverse page, Mr Moyes has consistently voted against the anti-life legislation put forward in the upper house. He is now running for re-election as a candidate for the Family First Party.

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### The Green Menace in the Legislative Council

At the 2007 election the Greens had two candidates elected to the upper house. There is a chance this could increase to three at this election (giving them five upper house members). It was former Greens MLC (now Federal Senator-elect) Lee Rhiannon who was publicly agitating for the decriminalisation of abortion in NSW during this last term of parliament. Pressure to grant parliamentary debate time to a decriminalisation of abortion bill will definitely come from the Greens members. Pro-lifers need to be aware that the Greens' agenda-setting role in the current Federal parliament could be repeated in NSW if the Greens end up with the balance of power in the upper house.



### KEY

X - Anti-life Vote

O - Pro-life Vote



EMILY'S



PGPD (Parliamentary Group for Population & Development)

**NB.** Politicians who have at least one X are not pro-life. Those politicians showing consistent O may not necessarily be 100% pro-life either (however preferable to proven anti-lifers). Contact individual members to clarify their views further.

SAME SEX ADOPTION  
SAME SEX REGISTER  
SURROGACY BILL  
HUMAN CLONING  
EMBRYO DESTRUCTION

|                      |      |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|----------------------|------|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| BROWN, Robert        | SFP  |  | O |   |   | X |   |
| CATANZARITI, Antonio | ALP  |  | O | X | O | X | X |
| CLARKE, David        | Lib  |  | O | O |   | O | O |
| COHEN, Ian           | Gr   |  | X | X | X | X | X |
| COLLESS, Richard     | Nats |  | O | X | X | O |   |
| CUSACK, Catherine    | Lib  |  | X | X | X | X | X |
| DONNELLY, Greg       | ALP  |  | O |   | O | O |   |
| GALLACHER, Michael   | Lib  |  | O | X | O | O | O |
| GAY, Duncan          | Nats |  | O | X | X | X | X |
| GRIFFIN, Kayee       | ALP  |  | X | X | X | X | X |
| KELLY, Tony          | ALP  |  | O | X | O | O | X |
| MOYES, Gordon        | FF   |  | O | O | O | O | O |
| PARKER, Robyn        | Lib  |  | X | X | X | X | X |
| PEARCE, Gregory      | Lib  |  | X | X |   | X | X |
| PRIMROSE, Peter      | ALP  |  | X | X | X |   | X |
| ROBERTSON, John      | ALP  |  | X | X |   |   |   |
| ROBERTSON, Christine | ALP  |  | X | X | X | X | X |
| ROOZENDAAL, Eric     | ALP  |  | X | X |   | X |   |
| SHARPE, Penny        | ALP  |  | X | X | X | X |   |
| SHOEBRIDGE, David    | Gr   |  |   |   | X |   |   |
| WEST, Ian            | ALP  |  | X | X | X | X | X |

## Important quotes from recent Legislative Council debates

**David Clarke MLC on the same-sex adoption bill:** *"[Children deserve] the best chance and the optimum chance in life, and the best chance is by having, where possible, a mother and a father. They should not be robbed of this right, and that is what this bill does – it robs the children who face adoption of this basic right. The passing of this bill would be a shameful day in the history of this Parliament."*

**Fred Nile MLC on the same-sex register:** *" I [have] often asked myself whether in some way we were dealing with a phoney marriage bill. This is a phoney marriage bill because it will allow two men or two women to register their same-sex relationship with the Registrar for Births, Deaths and Marriages. I ask members to note the word "Marriages" in that title."*

**Gordon Moyes MLC on human cloning:** *"When will the hunger for discovery stop and the disregard for human beings cease? Are there no real limits? Those with the courage and resolve to make a stand for sacred human life are the only ones that are able to prescribe the real limits. How is it possible for such a determination to be reversed in such a short period? It is largely because of the adoption of a relativistic point of view – one that is not informed by moral absolutes but by the perceived urgencies of the day. The problem of the absence of moral absolutes is that changing circumstances continue to shift the boundaries of what society deems acceptable."*

**DANGER – Lee Rhiannon MLC states the Greens' future intentions:** *"The NSW Greens are campaigning for the NSW government to show leadership and give the NSW Law Reform Commission the job of reviewing NSW's out-dated laws, with the aim of decriminalising abortion as occurred in late 2008 in Victoria. Ideally, the Greens believe the NSW government should show leadership and introduce an abortion law reform bill, following the lead of the Victorian Labor government which passed new laws decriminalising abortion in late 2008."*