



PolMin

influencing public policy
for the common good

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MEDIA RELEASE

“Faith Group calls for Just Work”

PolMin, a lobby group funded by Catholic religious orders, today launches a Federal Election campaign targeting faith-based communities in four marginal seats. The *Just Work* campaign will see PolMin distribute 15,000 leaflets to Christian parishes, schools and community groups in the electorates of Bass (Tasmania), Bonner (Queensland) Latrobe (Victoria) and Page (New South Wales) calling on people of faith to support fair workplaces.

“Christian social teaching is unequivocal about Just Work. Exploiting workers by not paying them sufficient wages, taking away leave entitlements and limiting the capacity of people to negotiate together for better conditions is contrary to over 100 years of Papal teachings” says Tanja Kovac, PolMin’s National Co-ordinator.

Sister Margaret Hinchey of the Sisters of Mercy and PolMin Board member says *“It is the role of government to make policies for the common good of workers and business, not advocate for one cause over the other. The Howard Government’s Workchoices legislation – even with the new amendments – falls short of delivering on the Christian principle of the common good.”*

PolMin is campaigning in marginal seats to ensure that the Christian message about fair workplaces impacts on public policy making in industrial relations.

“Politicians in both parties have shown a preparedness to ignore constituents outside of election cycles. The pre-election period is the most important time for us to get our message across. In some of our targeted electorates only a handful of votes will decide the outcome. Those votes may come from local faith communities.” says Ms Kovac.

“PolMin’s Just Work campaign calls on people of faith to value their vote and vote for their values,” says Ms Kovac. *“While we do not tell people who to vote for, as that’s not our business, we do encourage Christians to make choices at this election based on values of compassion, fairness and the common good”.*

“If politicians want the Christian vote during this Federal Election they need to shape their policies in an ethical and principled way – for the common good - on issues such as industrial relations and climate change.” says Sister Margaret Hinchey.

For more information about the Just Work campaign see the attached leaflet and contact Ms Tanja Kovac, PolMin’s National Co-ordinator, on 0409 590 178

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