



Wednesday, 6 October 2004

VOTERS URGED TO BE CAREFUL THIS SATURDAY

The Uniting Church today called on Australians to carefully consider their vote before casting it this Saturday to ensure it reflected the values and standards they expected from our politicians.

President, Rev. Dr Dean Drayton, said that throughout the election the Uniting Church has been calling for policies that ensure justice for all.

“The Uniting Church has been asking political leaders and candidates to make sure that the campaign was about more than economic policy and national security. We asked for policies to address issues like poverty and homelessness and ones that committed Australia to being a decent global citizen through increased aid for international development. We also sought policies that made a real commitment to reconciliation and supported religious and social diversity.

“The Uniting Church is not alone in wanting these policies – just like millions of other Australians we share the hope that politicians can dig a little deeper in the policy pot and reignite our hope for a confident, compassionate and generous Australia,” Rev. Drayton said.

“Sadly, many of these areas have been overlooked by political parties rushing to make billions of dollars in promises to influence how people will vote this Saturday.”

Rev. Drayton said this Saturday the Uniting Church is asking all Australians to consider if their vote will be:

1. A vote for peace (which might mean a vote against increased security)
2. A vote for the world (which might mean redefining the national interest)
3. A vote for the environment (which might be a vote for the future of all Australians)
4. A vote for diversity (which might mean loving others instead of fearing them)
5. A vote for communities (which might mean the economy serves us, not the other way)
6. A vote for reconciliation (which might mean health spending on more than Medicare)
7. A vote for the basics (which might mean considering what governments should be responsible for)
8. A vote for those in need (which might be you or might be someone else)
9. A vote for a lively democracy (which might be undermined by electioneering)
10. A vote for justice (which might be a vote for security after all)

Media contact: Gavin Melvin, Senior Communication Officer, 0417 416 674
Rev. Drayton is available for interview on request