

WEL Federal Election 2007 Preliminary Form Guide

The Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL) is offering a progress report on the federal election campaign so far, both to assist voters and encourage parties to fill some obvious gaps to address before November 24.

WEL has made an assessment of the policy commitments of the major political parties. We ask how "women friendly" are their policies in key areas affecting women. Who should people vote for if they care about these issues? Our scoring so far is found below and will be updated on our website in the final few days.

Our scoring is based on reviewing the **specific and firm commitments** by each party in selected areas in the context of their election campaign. Where there are gaps but parties have women friendly policy commitments in their party platform, these attract only partial scores because they are not actioned in terms of funding and time frames.

Our Form Guide covers ten major policy areas:

- **IR and the Workplace**
- **Early Childhood services**
- **Health Care**
- **Income Support**
- **Education**
- **Human Rights**
- **Housing**
- **Taxation and Spending**
- **Support for the Ageing**
- **Giving Women a Voice**

SCORING: Each major policy area is divided into five sub items. Each sub item can attract a maximum score of 2, resulting in a maximum score of 10 for each major policy area. If these scores are added together, each political party listed can achieve a score out of 100 for their coverage of "women friendly" policy initiatives. A minus 1 has been used for serious sins.

We gave a score of 0 both where there has been no policy announcement and/or if the content is not women friendly. Some will therefore be open to be changed to a score if more policies emerge. **We hope that all the parties will fill the gaps with good policies in the remaining pre election period.** For example, we hope for some good announcements from Labor on Income Support and Human Rights issues and from the Coalition on Child Care. These further policy commitments will be assessed and made available in our final Form Guide towards the end of the campaign on <http://www.wel.org.au/>

We have only included those parties with current parliamentary members in our Form Guide to keep it simple. However, we recognise that were we to score the new What Women Want Party and Carers Alliance Party, both would score very highly on many of the policy initiatives WEL sees as important.