

# The Importance of the Crossbench

**Senator Jacqui Lambie**  
Independent Senator for Tasmania

**Ebony Bennett:**  
Deputy Director at the Australia Institute

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**Ebony Bennett:** 0:00

Excellent. Good morning, everyone. I can see all our attendees start to come through the virtual door so to speak. Welcome. I'm Ebony Bennett. I'm the Deputy Director at the Australia Institute and thank you for coming along to our 2021 webinar series.

I'd like to begin by acknowledging that Canberra where I live and work is Ngunnawal country and I pay my respects to elders past and present, and to the traditional owners of this land. Sovereignty was never ceded, and it always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.

The same as last year, we're aiming to do these webinars at least weekly. But the days and times do vary. So head to our website at [www.australiainstitute.org.au/events](http://www.australiainstitute.org.au/events) so that you don't miss out. And just a few tips, I'm sure you're all old-hands at zoom now, but before we get going to make sure it all runs smoothly: if you hover over the bottom of the screen, you should be able to see a Q&A button. If you click on that you should be able to type in questions for Senator Lambie in the second half of this webinar. And you should also be able to up vote other people's questions and make comments on them as well. Please keep things civil and on topic in the chat or we'll boot you out. And lastly, a reminder that this discussion is being recorded and we'll post it up on our website and on our YouTube channel. And we'll email it to everyone after the discussion.

So, today we're talking to independent Senator for Tasmania, Jacqui Lambie, about the importance of the crossbench. Over the weekend, Senator Lambie was a guest at Kathy McGowan's "Getting elected" conference, which featured hundreds of current and prospective independent candidates and organizers from across the country trying to get elected [to the Parliament]. Candidates who may in future sit on the crossbench with Senator Lambie. But the cross bench has become more and more prominent in recent years. Most of what's written about in politics is about the activities and the policies of the Government and Opposition—the Liberal and Labor Parties. But in recent years, it's often the crossbench that determines the outcome of major legislation. Whether it's things like company tax cuts, it is the crossbench that pursues reforms that the Government isn't necessarily very interested in, like the need for a Federal ICAC with teeth, something that Senator Lambie has spoken a lot about. And so that's why we wanted to talk to a prominent member of the crossbench today.

Senator Lambie was raised in public housing, in Devonport. She served 10 years in the Australian Army before being forced out by an injury. And she was elected as a Senator for Tasmania at the 2013 Federal Election, at which time she was representing the Palmer United Party. But since then, she resigned from that party to sit as an independent in the Senate. She formed her own political party, the Jackie Lambie Network, of which she's the leader, and she was re elected to the Senate in 2016. However, on the 14th of November 2017, she resigned from the Senate after it was confirmed that she was a dual national—part of a number of MPs and senators were caught up in that at the

time. And she's obviously a mother of two boys, and joining us from Tasmania today. Thank you so much for joining us, Senator Lambie, we really appreciate it.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 3:06

Oh, thank you very much for having me on.

**Ebony Bennett:** 3:09

May I call you Jacqui?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 3:10

Oh please do so. I'd find the title insulting, call me Jacqui.

**Ebony Bennett:** 3:16

Well, it's been a political career that's been anything but predictable. We are also joined today by Eloise Carr. She's the director of the Australia Institute in Tasmania. And, Jacqui, just to start, I want to come to the topic at hand. In your experience, you've been sitting on the crossbench for many years now, why do you think the crossbench is important?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 3:41

I think the crossbench is important because it keeps the rest of them accountable. And it keeps them at bay. You know, they've got to answer questions. If you've got power— if the blue and reds have got power all through both sides of Parliament, then we're going to have a problem in this country where nothing is debated, it's just pushed through. There's no way that they can actually be good for the country.

**Ebony Bennett:** 4:05

Yeah. And so you have been on the crossbench for quite a while now. Before we I guess get into a bunch of other issues. I did [want to ask] obviously is a lot happening in Parliament at the moment, we've got allegations of rape against a sitting cabinet Minister. We've got other rape allegations from the staffer, Brittany Higgins, in Parliament House, a lot of talk about the culture of Parliament House and how politics is toxic to women. What's your observations of what's happening up in Parliament at the moment, how the Prime Minister is handling this, and what the culture is like for women.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 4:44

First of all, I do not think the Prime Minister is handling this very well at all. I'll say this, I've said it in the past, and I'll continue to say it: his emotional intelligence never, never ceases to surprise me because he has very little of it. I think that comes with life experience, and you've actually got to be born and bred with that emotional intelligence, unfortunately. And for some people, especially at that sort of level, a lot of them do not have it. That's the first problem. So it's easy to sit there in denial rather than turn around and say, 'I'm going to deal with this, and I'm going to deal with this right away, and I'm not putting up with any crap.' He just doesn't have that in him I'm sorry, he just doesn't.

This is not going to go away. I think this is gonna become bigger, I think you're going to see more people—especially more women—stand up about the culture in Parliament. For me, I don't see a lot of it. I don't go to Manuka and sit at the bars with the red or the blue team or anything like that. You know, if anything, I might do a quick dinner with either a Minister or a Shadow Minister or something, every now and then. But that's about as far as it goes. So being so busy and having very limited staff, and no backbenchers out there, I really don't have a lot of time for that Party intermingling and things like that, let alone seeing the culture that's happening behind the closed doors. Look, there's no doubt I'm not, you know—I'm certainly very aware. I am former military, they have the same bloody culture going on in there. It's just as bad if not worse. It seems to happen a lot worse in these institutions. And they seem to be able to cover up a lot better in these institutions than they can anywhere else around Australia's workforce. So it is very, very concerning.

But for me—and I guess my being ex military - I don't really have those men up there [in Parliament] taking me on to be honest. They're probably a lot more intimidated of Jacqui Lambie than probably most others up there, myself and Penny Wong, and probably Tanya Plibersek. So I think because we can stand alone, we probably don't see it. I certainly don't. I don't apologize for it. I'm just, you know, I've got my head down. I'm trying to get as much done as I possibly can, there is a lot of legislation to get through, that sort of thing.

In the meantime, we [Jacqui Lambie Network] don't take those bloody political donations, so I have to stay out there, you know, on the streets and do what I've got to do, because really, I don't have time. Hence, that's probably why I haven't had a partner in my life since I've been in politics. I hardly get to see my children which moan about it. So yeah for me, but I mean, I'm certainly very aware that that sort of thing goes on because like I said, I was former military.

**Ebony Bennett:** 7:18

Yeah. And there's a number of reviews and things being raised as a possibility to look into the culture separate, I think, from some of the recent allegations.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 7:28

No, no, no—

**Ebony Bennett:** 7:29

Can you tell us about that?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 7:30

Yeah, I can.

**Ebony Bennett:** 7:31

What's happening?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 7:32

Well, what they're doing is, you will see they've watered down and phased out those reviews. I understand that after talking to Minister Birmingham last week. And what you'll have is one big independent review, now that myself and some of the other, especially the female independents have been asked to come in, whether it's say, Rebecca Sharkey, or Helen Haines herself, and give some names of people that should be in charge of this independent inquiry. So you watch, you should see the other three or four that they've got running—it was a five—that should evaporate over the next week or two, to get something through. Apparently, you know, one was just to look at what was going on in the Liberal Party. And then there was another one. So there was not one actually going, looking at the whole, the whole issue here. So hopefully, you'll see a lot more action on that in the next sitting week, when we're up there next week. And I would expect those people that are going to run that independent review, to be independent like we've been promised. Expect those to be named and to get started on that review in the next 10 to 12 days. And even then, I'm giving them a little bit more leniency than what I should because, quite frankly, I would have liked it to be started and those names at the end of this week. So I'll give them till the end of next week. And see how we go before we go back into Parliament, that week after.

**Ebony Bennett:** 8:48

Eloise, did you have a question?

**Eloise Carr:** 8:50

Oh, Jacqui, I just wanted to hear a bit more about the National Convention for the Independents that happened over the weekend. Were you presenting there and what did you talk about? And what did you take away from it?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 9:04

Yeah, look I didn't get to sit in the whole lot. Because also I had to go out there with my boots on, there was some events—I've been sort of shut out from those events because of COVID unfortunately. So I watched the segment, I think it had Rebekah Sharkie, and I think it was the three independents or the two maybe, her and Helen [Haines]. I watched that for a little while and then got just got stuck into my own. I think what you can see is it depends on your electorate or your state, on how you're going to run a campaign as an independent. You know, everyone's done it differently. Certainly they haven't done it the way that I ran my campaign, and every campaign that I've run in the last three, whether it was with Palmer United going through a Double D or being out there for 20 months without a job, without cash, trying to win my seat back after being done under Section 44. So, you know, I think if there's anything I take out of it; you have to move with the times,

you have to work out, you know, how is the best way that you can connect with your electorate or your state? And preferably if you're not taking political donations, so you look even better and keep yourself clean cut, that certainly helps.

**Ebony Bennett:** 10:14

Eloise, you've been doing a bit of work on, I think, cleaning up the culture of accountability and accountability mechanisms in Tasmania. Jacqui, do you have any thoughts on that process that's happening in your state?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 10:31

The process? Oh, I thought it, I thought it'd gone into a coma. Is there actually something moving again, is it? Oh my god. We've been pushing this, I've been pushing me since I've been up here. You know, if you've got nothing to hide, why can't you show your political donations in seven days? Why can't you bring it down to, if there's anything over \$1,500 dollars or 3,000 bucks, then you've got to, you've got to declare it? You know, if you really got nothing to hide, then why [not]? What is the problem in having political donations changed? You can't tell me that you go to a dinner, and you pay 10 grand a seat for your soggy fish and chips there, is worth 10 grand. What are you buying? Come on, you know, it just—it blows me away, that these so-called leaders in our country, their ignorance on how the public actually feel about this and all this being exposed. I tell you what, what it would do is to keep them on the straight and narrow a little bit more, because there's nothing worse than seeing legislation come through the Parliament, you go, it makes no common sense. Why would you vote for that? And then you go through and you're connecting the dots with political donations from the past into the party itself? And you think, yeah, this is not what's best for the nation. This is what's best for a very small group of people, so you can continue to get your donations every time there's an election. You know, this is killing the country. And I'll be honest with you, it's probably one of the worst things going on out there right now—is this political donations. And I think if people could see what I could see, what was going on up there in that house and what goes on in state parliament here, and what those political donations buy. And I tell you now, those politicians can be bought as cheap as chips—really, for access just offer them a grand, that'll just about get you in the front door, then give them another couple and you will probably get what you want, that's another frightening thing about it—you don't have to pay much to get what you want. I mean, for God's sakes, at least if you're going to give something to somebody, make sure you charge them an arm and a leg. Christ. Yeah, just, it's really frightening.

**Ebony Bennett:** 12:29

Yeah.

**Eloise Carr:** 12:31

I was just gonna ask Jacqui, how involved do you get in state politics, because obviously, this is an issue across state and federal. And Tasmania is in the process of reviewing our Electoral Act at the

moment, including political donations, and what the threshold should be, and so on. So yeah, just interested to hear how engaged you get in state issues.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 12:55

No, I have to stay up with the state issues, but I can tell you now between Tasmanian and the Federal parliament there, the political donations [laws] are the weakest in the country. So really, quite frankly, I would have thought Gutwein would be a little bit bigger than that. And I would have expected a bit more out of him, it's been really pathetic. I think we might have submission into that, we certainly ran our own political donations inquiry up there in Canberra as we were giving them options, not just saying something needs to be done. We told them how it could be done certainly putting out our bid out there. For us, in state, in state politics is really difficult because this - so, I either compromise my family's name and take that and the country, or I don't, and that means trying to get other people up, whether it's state or federal, that makes it really, really difficult. And that's the problem that we are having, because it's not just- if you're going to run, you can't- you've got to get out there, you have got to be out there. So basically, you have to chuck your job away, especially that last six months, you have to be out there at least eighteen months beforehand, because they don't have that or 12 months minimum. You know, so it is really, really difficult to get [people to run] and there's a lot of people out there just say 'what the crap', they've got no respect for politicians: 'why the stuff would I go into the political arena?' That's what we're getting to. So the pool itself, the pool, the political pool itself is actually getting smaller, of the people that actually want to put the hand up and have a run, you know, so that really, really bothers me that, you know, the, the intellectual political pool itself is getting smaller and smaller and less and less. So, I'm not sure what we so about that.

**Ebony Bennett:** 14:31

Yeah, Jacqui, I was going to ask about that.

I think when you first came to Parliament, to be frank, journalists talk a lot about wanting regular people in politics, people who don't come as a, you know, from a background and a long history associated with a political party, people that talk like regular people. But when you first got to Parliament, you didn't sound like any other politicians. And sometimes I think some of the journalists who spoke with you were a bit snobby and made a lot of out of the fact that you didn't keep to political talking points, and you didn't talk like a regular politician. How important is it to you that there are other people like you, who will put their hand up and run and don't face those kinds of barriers to getting into politics?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 15:16

I think to me, I didn't help myself. And I probably didn't have those people- or I didn't have the right people around me, that did not help. So I have to take blame in that. You know, I've learnt the hard way, I've certainly done that. And I can certainly mentor people through that, so they don't end up in the same situation that I did. And I don't think because I was put under, because I was put under

Clive Palmer and ran with his Party. That did not help the situation, as much as he tried to shield us, it actually made the situation worse. Not having a go at Clive Palmer at all, because he did try and shield us, but every move he made just made it worse. So it was really quite difficult. I come from a background where I didn't give a stuff about politics, I just knew that I needed to be on the inside to make a difference to veterans and to the state of Tasmania. I didn't know the difference between the Upper House and the Lower House. No idea whatsoever. I really didn't. I had no idea what a red was. Absolutely none. I would make sure that, you know, people coming in, that they had some sort of [understanding], I never thought about that. I just thought, well, I'll just work it out as I go along, right?

**Ebony Bennett:** 16:16

Yeah.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 16:17

No, I wouldn't suggest anybody do that. I don't think ever I've seen anyone [?]. And I'm not educated either, because I joined the army at just over 17, nearly 18. So you know, for me, what I would do is make sure that those people that were coming in maybe had just a little bit more political nouse than what I did. Mind you, I had none. So I'm not asking for a lot. And then I'd guide you, so you're not stuck in there, you're not sitting in front of a camera and you have no idea yourself. So for me, because I'd been out of work for 12 years, I was still working on my self esteem and stuff like that, so I really had a lot going against me—even to the point after leaving Palmer United in [] from November of 2014, I sat down with my dad in February and just cried said, I just don't have what it takes I've been out of the workforce too long.

**Ebony Bennett:** 17:04

Yeah.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 17:04

It was because my father goes, 'Lambies don't give anything up—we don't give up, we don't stand down' you know, otherwise, I reckon I would have chucked it in. It was really difficult for me, but I'd be very, very different than pretty much anyone else that's been in there just because of my background, what I went through, and that I was still coming out of that, that Veterans Affairs thing, fighting with them for so long.

But just making sure that there's a bit more cushion in there, a bit more better mentored, I guess. So, I would really like normal people out there to have a shot. But really, I'm telling you now we don't - we're happy to back people and stuff like that, but they have to be prepared to give back as well, and that could mean taking six months out of your job. Because it's the only way you're going to get elected. And that is a bloody tough ask. So we're a little bit stuck in the middle. It's like, God, if we take political donations, you're damned if you do, damned if you don't. But really, I don't have

permission. We are using my family's name to do that. Nor do I have the permission of Tasmania, where I come at the start with saying that I won't be taking those donations. We rely heavily on the public, you know, very heavily on the public for their \$5, \$10, \$15 \$20 dollar notes, things like that, chucking in their bank account, you know, we have regular people now putting in \$50 bucks a month. Stuff like that. Most of it comes from the mainland, I'll be honest with you. Tasmanians don't have a lot of money. We have a lot of elderly down here and I feel shameful for even asking them. For me, it was very sweet when I was running around had no money for the [?race]. Me and Dad in a borrowed van with Jacqui Lambie all over it, that had little old ladies come out and give me their \$5 notes and going, 'go get yourself a cup of coffee love,' or people would just say to you, 'here's \$40 bucks go and put some petrol in your car,' or people that would ring me up say, 'hey, if you want to stay here at the hotel, we won't charge you anything. Come stay for the night while you're going through,' you know. So it was a real community thing that way. And that paid off for me and kept our costs down, because it was really, really difficult. I think I had like \$80 bucks left in my bank on the last day before running into that election.

Yeah, wow.

And about two months' worth of house payments left to cover me. So you know, so it's like, I'm prepared to give and I was prepared to give my first house up to have a run before I ran out of money. I went with Clive Palmer. So if other people want to have a run, you have to sacrifice somewhere, I can't just go out there and do it all for you. You know, so that means you are going to have to give up your job or, you know, go on long service leave. You're going to work every weekend going into that for the next you know, eight to 10 months or whatever it is. So yeah, it's a lot. It's a lot to ask, especially if you've got kids, or you're younger, you've got a partner. Basically you have to put your life on hold, and there's no guarantee that you'll get a seat at the end. And so, it is a lot to bloody ask.

**Ebony Bennett:** 19:41

Jacqui, you talked there about how much you had to learn on the job as you went and since joining the crossbench in 2015, you really have played a key role in determining a lot of legislation, sometimes quite controversially. So, right at the beginning you were part of the crossbench that saved a lot of the Clean Energy architecture from Tony Abbott's axe, helping to create I think, about \$23 billion worth of renewable energy projects after that. And you've also supported things like the income tax cuts package that the Australia Institute has been quite critical of. And of course, things like repealing Medevac for which you drew quite a lot of criticism.

How do you approach those really big and controversial issues when you are likely to be in a balance of power, and perhaps the final determining vote? And when you do cop criticism, how important is it to be able to explain how you approached it or why you voted the way that you did?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 20:43



I think you've just got to, because I had no political influence sort of around me, we look at all the evidence, we put all the evidence on the table, and we look at and we sift through it, and we speak to the fors and againts, and anything in between. That's what we do. And we try and come up with the best solution or the best way around that, that is best for everyone. So there's no loser out of it all. And I guess that's the way we do it.

I was very lucky, I didn't have a balance of power when Nick Xenophon was up there. For a short period of time, certainly up until a Double D (Double Dissolution), I was a part of that Palmer United and Ricky Muir's The Motorists, when we still held that balance of power. But even then, I'm not sure I did a great job, because I was just trying to find my feet, let alone understanding what all that was about. And then of course, Nick Xenophon, after that Double D, he had the balance of power, but Nick had been taking me under his wing right from the start. So basically, I could walk alongside Nick, during that period of time until I got done under Section 44 and watch how he was doing things. He explained to me how we're doing things. So I'm really, really grateful to have had that mentoring from Nick Xenophon. That's helped me greatly.

It comes down to making sure you have the right people around you, like I've said before, and make sure you're hiring the right people. And that is a mixture of everything—that's a mixture of age and a mix of the left, the right and in between, and making sure you have them around you so you can hear all their points of view, whether they're educated or uneducated. And I try and do that in my staffing as well. So for me, we do—we do cop a lot of criticism, which is fine, they can criticize me, but what they're actually doing is they're criticizing my staff. And there are times where I've really gone ballistic over that. It's not nice. If you want to criticise then do it, but calling them the C-word on the phone and stuff like that. And you know, I'll be honest with you, it's actually the left that is worse than the right. How about that? The Left worse than the Right with that sort of stuff. I find it absolutely shameful. But the pressure it puts on my staff, if you want to have a go at me on the streets, you be my guest, if you think you're big enough. Or if you want to, ring me and call me every name under the sun. But it's my staff that pay the price for that, and that I find quite upsetting. So, you know, we don't always get it right. We try and do the best job that we possibly can with our limited resources. And, like I said, I don't have a life. This is my life. I'm throwing everything I've got at it. So if people still want to criticise me, that's fine, but at least do it to my face or ring me up and do it over the phone or an email, but don't do it to the staff. That's the thing that really annoys me more than anything.

**Ebony Bennett:** 23:15

Yeah, that's fair enough.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 23:16

Yeah.

**Ebony Bennett:** 23:17

Eloise, did you have another question for Jacqui?

**Eloise Carr:** 23:20

Yeah. Jacqui, the independent review of the EPBC Act recommended a range of reforms to make actual environmental law more effective. And you played a key role with other crossbenchers to stop the government from rushing through changes, late last year. And I- well, what do you see as the critical components of any reform to the EPBC Act?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 23:44

Yes so. Oh geeze, talk about crossbench. Between myself, Stirling Griff and Rex [Patrick]. Look, you know, what we try is, we try to negotiate. We try and do the right thing. We try and do what's right to keep the bills alive. You know, so everyone's happy with it. We have been working alongside the Minister. But we've basically we have, basically- she received a letter from us. And I certainly won't be putting that out, at this point in time. And that was after speaking to her in that last couple of days, in the last sitting period, and we've told her that unless they put in strong environmental standards, which we wrote about, and an independent Commissioner to make sure that those environmental standards are enforced properly—with an independent Commissioner—not a mate, an independent Commissioner, right? Then it's probably it's not going to go - discussions aren't going to go any further. Obviously, the Standards and Insurance Bill has now gone to an inquiry and is due to report June 15. So we've been able to push that out and make sure that we have a look at those standards again and separate that out. Just so we can see a bit more about standards, and hear about them. Yes, so I guess for us, it's just putting all the checks and balances in. So obviously, it's the standards that bother us. It's the standards, it's what- I'm not even happy with the way Tasmanian standards are down here. And by passing them more power, I'm not happy about that either. So I just thought, they're palming this stuff off to the states. Do they have the money? Do they have the people on the ground to be able to do this? How much backing, what are they paying for? You know. So I still think there's quite a lot of answers that need to be given here. And I think you'll find that, I think it's going to be an 'all or nothing' with the Liberal Party setting a cabinet. And unfortunately, when it comes to Sussan Ley, I don't think she's got the strength to take those men on.

So I would imagine this is probably going to go way-side. Which is really unfortunate, because we can actually probably make our environmental standards even stronger and better. But this will come down to Sussan Ley and we're working really hard. And my, especially my senior advisors—and Rex's, and Stirling's—we're giving a lot of time in there to try and make some of this Bill happen, the best parts of it. See what I mean? But it comes down to them, the Minister getting all those cabinet—getting those white collared men—on side. You know? Saying, "you will do it or I'm getting the whip out, and this is the way it's going to be". Unfortunately, those women in the Liberal Party don't have that. I don't have problem with them personally, but their strength against those men... I don't know what it is. But yeah, I don't, I just don't know where this is gonna end up. But it's gonna come down to Minister Ley and whether or not she can pull this off. And whether or not she can convince her Cabinet to lax it off a bit and let her control the situation. I'm just not feeling the goodness, that she's going to be able to achieve that.

And so we'll go to questions from the audience in just a second. But I would just like to give a shout out. We've got about 630 people on this webinar. So thank you so much for joining us today and I can see a lot of great questions here that we'll get to shortly. But, Jacqui, you've been an independent senator for Tasmania for quite a few years now. I just wondered if you could reflect for us on what you think some of the key things that you've achieved for Tasmania or some of the important issues ahead for your state that you're thinking about?

Yeah, so we have a big...at the moment, we have West Coast Renewables coming up trying to set up down here. They've already done Granville Harbour, done a great job down there. 48, 48-58 wind farms down there already. And right now they've got a signing deal, pretty much backers all over ready to go for, I think, 432 to go up through sort of like this side of the middle of Tasmania come up. There's no problems with that. None of the locals are making a hoo-ha out of it, they're glad to do it. But what it would give us is 3000 direct and indirect jobs on the northwest coast, to be able to get the TAFE with its doors open again, which would be lovely. I think so. As you people will probably know.

**Ebony Bennett:** 28:23

The TAFEs have been doing it really tough, haven't they?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 28:25

Oh mate, they've destroyed them. Anyway, we can talk about that in another session. And hydrogen, hydrogen off that. You know, only vested...and the only person holding it up is the Mineral Council of Tasmania, and the Premier of Tasmania. So it's funny that Robbins Island out there that's sitting on an island that has these species that they're concerned about, building this great big bridge across to reach it, the destruction that's going to do to the environment, being ticked off like it's, like it's not an issue whatsoever. And everyone's carrying on about it. Yeah, this one that everybody wants down here that's much bigger, much better, already backed, not asking for Federal Government money or state government money. We can't get it ticked off, you know, so, anyway, that's just one of my, that's a bee in my bonnet right now about that mess. Right. So I think the biggest achievement, obviously, for me is having that public housing debt wiped. Yeah, well, it should be. There is problems with that, though. And even with making that public housing debt wiped, the reason it took me a little longer than, well people were saying well what's the problem? Why is it taking 12 weeks? Is because I had to do like a legal document to say whether it's legal labour in Tasmania, you must keep the same amount of funding, if not more. If it's the same amount of money, it must go up with the, with the increases, standard increases each year as well. So that keeps ticking over right. So that was an agreement we had to make, so it was a bit of argy-bargy about that, at least keeping up with the CPI, that you must keep that amount of money that you're using now and keep that going. The problem is that we're having, is that Tasmania right now is in a boom. We cannot get tradies. You're waiting months for tradies. So those tradies, which good on them, because for a long time there up until the last four or five years, they were doing it really tough down here in Tassie. Especially the young guys out there trying to get apprentices and, and stuff like that. That's actually put the Public Housing bill behind because there's jobs moving a lot

faster and things getting ticked off in people's private residence and all the rest, and that's paying better. So doing that, so it has put it in a bit of a hold. I'm not sure that the Housing Minister is doing everything he possibly can. I'm not sure he's the right bloke for the job to be honest with you when it comes to yench(?). But I certainly know there are not-for-profits out there doing everything they possibly can. We've got a good, good table of those NGOs out there, and we have done in Tasmania now for about four or five years. And they work together and they do that very, very well. So I think they're actually driving it. But unfortunately, they don't get the money to spend, they've got, they've got to wait for the minister. And this is holding them back. This is really holding them back. So I'm just not sure though if the minister's heart isn't in it, or he's just not capable of doing the job. But you know, I am really concerned. Rent has gone up, rent has gone up. We're gonna end up with more homeless people out there and in the meantime, we've got mainland standing there smashing us, buying up our properties, and they're going through the roof. Yeah. So you know, that in itself is a problem. I think a lot of the deals you get done, you'd actually don't have to do deals because I've got such a big voice and big social media so I just go out there and smash either the state ministers that are in charge - it's not a lot of them, that's only a little bit on that side - but it's hitting those people up here and then hitting the Liberal senators down here and the House of Representatives because as you know, in Braddon, Bass and Lyons, it's only about a 2% difference give or take swing. And therefore those you know, there's like a revolving door who gets that position, whether it's red or blue. So by smashing them, or putting the pressure on them we'll usually get the result anyway without having to do a deal which suits me because I hate selling my soul. So you know, it was like the, you know, the tax cuts the reason we got that Public Housing debt. And I'd like to see everybody else's removed and have that same sort of deal I did with the state of Tasmania, make sure that that same money stays in there with the CPI attached. And other bits and pieces, and it's got to be used in these areas, nowhere else within that housing portfolio and stuff like that, that that be done. I think that helps. And it also generates jobs out there. And I know that some of your people are going "Yes, but you gave them those third order tax cuts". I remind most people that we've just gone through COVID, and like I said, on the floor when I gave my speech, that happens in 2024/25. We're gonna have two more elections between now and then. It doesn't mean that they can't be removed from the table. You know, and by the way, Labor was already gonna vote for that. So I thought, well if Labor wants to vote for that and not do a deal for itself, then I'll go and go and undercut them and go and do a deal for Tasmania. So I was damned if I do, damned if I don't. But in the meantime, I got that housing debt wiped. So that would have went through, those tax cuts, I'm telling you now. They already had Labor support. So I just got in a little bit earlier.

**Ebony Bennett:** 33:11

Thanks, Jacqui. We'll go now to questions from the audience. We might just deal with the several Medivac questions here to begin with. So I've got one from Ingrid Jackson, another from Trevor Gould. Ingrid is asking, "Can you just explain why you voted to repeal Medivac?" and Trevor is asking about the deal associated with that and if you can shed any more light on that?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 33:38

Yeah, I can. So I've told the government that I wouldn't repeal the Medivac, as you've all seen, without putting something in instead. And they agreed to that. Right, so they have agreed to that. They agreed to that, what was it, November, not last year but the year before. But part of that

agreement is that if I tell you what that agreement is, then the deal's off, or the agreement's off, you can call it whatever it is. And those refugees will be left with absolutely nothing. They're not going anywhere, they're going to stay there. That's where it is. Well, you can have them brought back here and then be put in detention centers anyway. That was the choice that I was left with. So I'm hoping that this will be explained very, very shortly on what that agreement was and what has come out of that agreement. And you know, it's making it very, very difficult. I wanted to say something for Christmas time. And I said that to put the deal on, to put the pressure on the government, to make sure that that agreement that we had was completely followed through and get moving with it and finish it off. So that's where we're at. I mean, you know, I can come out here and spurt that and then you know what it's going to do is leave them worse off. So if you just want to give me a little bit more time. That would be great. And then everybody will, everyone will be happy and they'll get what they want. That's what's gonna come out of this agreement.

**Ebony Bennett:** 35:04

Mmm. Thanks, Jacqui. The next question is from Liam Norton and it's a follow on from the APBC question before and about that review process and it's asking especially about other any draft standards, including the failure to protect Aboriginal heritage. Is there anything specific about protecting Aboriginal heritage?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 35:27

So I'll have to go back through those standards, about that aboriginal heritage. I think it's pretty much the standards that come out of...it's the standards we're looking at that come out of... what's his name, sorry, I've got a blank... it's the gentleman that wrote the, that wrote it up.

**Ebony Bennett:** 35:48

The Graeme Samuel's review?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 35:50

Yeah, sorry. Yeah so it's pretty much I'm just going along with his standards. Yeah.

**Ebony Bennett:** 35:56

Okay. The next question is from George Votsorakis, I hope I've said that correctly George, my apologies. When will the Federal ICAC become reality? I know, this is one that you care a lot about Jacqui.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 36:13

Well apparently they're very well behaved up there so they don't need one. (Laughter.) When are they putting police on the beat? Geez! You have to ask, I don't know, as soon as we get more powers

as Independents. You know, I think, yeah, unfortunately, One Nation holds a couple of those seats, and it's a pity they weren't pushing it a lot harder. You know, and Labor's, even their ICAC, you know, you don't hear them pushing a lot, because theirs is quite weak as well. I just don't, you know, I thank the Greens, they're really, they're pretty much on the ball with this all the time. And because you've got, you know, you've got some people down in the lower house, so I think there's about five or six of us as Independents and pushing it, but we still just do not have enough power. That going? You know, I would think that, yeah, I don't I don't know what the problem is. If you have nothing to hide, why wouldn't you set one of those things up with the biggest sort of powers that they can possibly have, that nothing's off the table. And you know, boiling(?) that ICAC to make sure that if there are criminal charges, that they're, that they are charged as well. I have another sell from the outside specifically attached to that, but I can sort of give and take with that if they want to pass it out to the Feds or whatever, once they find criminal activity, but I just don't see what the problem is. I think it will bring a lot more transparency into the public arena. And it will also keep them more on the straight and narrow. It really, really would. Right now, they just can get away with anything. They're just about getting away with murder, to be honest with you. And it just, it frightens me where we're going, you know, even leaders need discipline, unfortunately. And that's life. That's what it's about. And without that ICAC, we're not getting that. Until we get that, you won't see any changes going to be made I don't think in Federal government.

**Ebony Bennett:** 38:10

The next question is from Tracy Davis. She says, Jacqui, your vote and all crossbenchers' is vital to defeat the IR bill that will hurt all workers. Where are things up to with that IR bill? And where are you leaning on that?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 38:26

Yes, so we're still waiting to see whether anything's gonna be removed from that, obviously, the BOOT [Better Off Overall Test] got the boot, which was a good start, but there is some good stuff in that bill. So that's the problem. I mean, you know, you have the, we need to come up with the wording for casualisation, there's no doubt about that. We can't keep going on, you know, from after that, the Federal Court thing that's just happened. We need to be able to fix that. We need to make sure that employers aren't ripping off employees, so there are a couple of things in that bill that really need to be dealt with that can actually make workers' lives out there even better. So we tried to just keep that alive. Certainly between Stirling Griff and myself and Rex just trying to keep that alive. And we, my advisors have been speaking, have touched base with the Attorney General's but it's like the Attorney General's given up. So it's not like, if he's not going to get the whole bill up then don't worry about doing it at all. So that's, that's, that's what I'm up against. Well, that's what we're up against. I don't know where One Nation is, because one minute they're supporting it, then they're not, then they are, and then they're probably not. When they take the vote, they probably will. You know, so I just think if Porter, the Attorney General, is going to take this all-or-nothing approach, then he's going to end up with nothing but there are things that need to be fixed. And certainly I do not want to see after that, um, decision in the courts, your small business, having to pay back years and years and years because people are going from casual, to permanent. You know, I don't want that standard and that's sitting there. Something needs to be done. Small business out there is already doing it tough. So that's a real problem in itself. Yeah, so employees getting ripped

off. You know, having much bigger penalties put up against the employers, and that sort of stuff should be happening to make sure it's a deterrent. So there is, you know, some parts of this bill that really needs to be spoken about and left on the table, and dealt with unfortunately.

**Ebony Bennett:** 40:26

Thank you. The next question is from Angela Hill. She says, "Hi, Jacqui, how would you encourage young people to enter politics without joining the Labor or Liberal parties?"

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 40:38

(Laughter). Yeah.

**Ebony Bennett:** 40:39

Would you encourage them?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 40:44

Yeah, no not particularly. It's a little bit of an issue. Unless you're really hardcore, and you want to go and fight for your country, I wouldn't join the military at this point in time either. We've got issues so look, you can't...you know, if one of my kids wanted to come into politics, I certainly wouldn't stop them. I'd do everything I can to support them and mentor them. As much as I'll be rolling my eyes back saying "can't you find something else to do?" You know, if they really want to do that, well, I don't want to stand in young kids' ways, if that's where their heart is and that's, that's the goal that they want to achieve in their life. And that is their silver lining then, jeez, you know, I'll get out there and do everything I can to possibly encourage them and help them. It is quite difficult. I do believe they've got Labor's - is it Emily's list? - that they do in Victoria. I think I've spoken about for a long time. I think that's a really good initiative for young women. That seems to help them into politics. Yeah, it has. And I think I think that's really great. Unfortunately, I've only got limited numbers of people and volunteers and trying to run something like that makes it, makes it really difficult as well. I wouldn't encourage anyone under 30 years of age or 28, to actually come into politics until they've grown up a little bit, got a little bit of life experience on their hands. I don't know, I think it was the first or second year I was up in Parliament I think it was, well, Wyatt (Voice or something?), 22 years of age and being a...

**Ebony Bennett:** 42:05

Wyatt Roy.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 42:06

Yeah, thank you. I nearly blew over. I thought, are you kidding me? This boy's got no experience, no nothing. And he's, uh, you know, you can use too much of your power being a bigger person to being

an adult, on those younger people, like really and I think that bothers me as well. Especially, you know, younger people expect mentoring and stuff like that, and people can take advantage of that. For their own reasoning.

**Ebony Bennett:** 42:33

Yeah. Jacqui, you've talked a little bit about how difficult it is as you as one person with your own political party and the resources, you know, that you don't have. So the next question is from John Baker. So he says, What resources do you and other Independents on the crossbench have to respond to issues and policies and to develop your own policies? And so he said here, for example, staff, research by think tanks like the Australia Institute, sharing with other like-minded Independents. Could you just talk to us a little bit about how the crossbench deals with that kind of... not having a whole political party to back you when you're on the smaller end of politics?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 43:14

Yes, so I have one of my senior advisors from Gratton and the other one's from the Institute. (Laughter). But between the two of them, very interesting. I do lie, the good thing is with me, I can't really speak for the rest of them. Because I have been in the game now since 2013, I've learned who to trust, who to take word from that they're telling the truth and they're doing it for the right reasons. Not because it suits the little... who they're lobbying for or anything else, but it is right and so you can narrow that down slowly. You've still got to see all the different groups out there and stay on the ground and things like that. But I've started, you know, you can know who to trust, who you can go to. I do use the Australia Institute. You know, I'm not sure if I'm allowed to say that, but I do! You know, I've always had a good relationship with Ben Oquist, and I've been very grateful for his help over the years.

**Ebony Bennett:** 44:13

Can I ask how much you talk to other members of the crossbench and what kind of relationship all the crossbenchers have in Parliament.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 44:23

Yeah, so for the Senate, so like Stirling, Stirling Griff, and Rex, Senator Rex Patrick's, they'll, they usually meet on a Monday. So that my legislation advisors speak to his, speak to theirs. So we've been able to get that up and running. It just took that first six or eight months where we all got settled back in but that's sort of running now. So that helps. Being able to discuss that between a lot of us, we struggle to discuss with One Nation. So we just find it's probably easier just to leave them out and we just do the three of us, because it can get really difficult and waste a lot of energy and we just don't have much to waste unfortunately. So that makes things easy on us and I have that relationship with those three men as well and we can usually come to some sort of compromise most of the time, which is good and I think, you know, we're not there, I think because the three of us - if we lose our seats, we lose our seats, we get on with it, that's, that's the way it is. So there's nothing else at stake. It's all about putting the country first and what's best for it and hope to Christ



that between the three of us, we can come to some sort of decision that is going to actually achieve that. That's what we do.

**Ebony Bennett:** 45:28

And I will say, on behalf of the Institute, we're always delighted when Jacqui uses our work, and it's always open and publicly available for anyone up to and including the Prime Minister to make great use of the Australian Institute's research. And we really appreciate the support you've showed the Institute over the years.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 45:48

I think they've got their own think tank. (Laughter.) A far right think tank.

**Ebony Bennett:** 45:53

They've got a few actually. (Laughter.) The next question...

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 45:57

I don't know if I'd call them a think tank, but whatever.

**Ebony Bennett:** 46:01

The next question that I've got here touches again, on the historic rape allegations. And I believe the minister in question is perhaps going to give a statement sometime this afternoon. But I'm not sure how much more you want to say on this, Jacqui, but the question is from Brian McGiver, who asks, "What kind of role do you see for yourself and the crossbench, if any, on pressuring the cabinet minister to stand down in the wake of these historic rape allegations?"

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 46:31

Yeah I actually find this quite absurd. No doubt that they'll come out tonight, because that's exactly what they do all the time. I believe...if there is something hanging over a Minister's head, and it's going to hurt their party and hurt the country, then they should have enough conscience to step down so you might sit at least on the back bench. But unfortunately, we don't see that "leading by example" happen very often, if at all. So in fact the only person I've seen do that is Sam Dastyari. So yeah, it's a difficult one. I'm always one to, you know, put all the evidence on the table until proven guilty. I do believe in our Australian legal system. But then on the other hand, you know, you've got the Defence Minister out there, you've got alleged war crimes going on and those blokes, and some of those blokes have been sacked even before the, you know, even before they've been found guilty. So it's like the Liberal Party wants its cake and wants to eat it as well. So, you know, it's really, really bad leadership, and at least at the very minimum he should go to the backbench until this is all sorted, I think.

**Ebony Bennett:** 47:44

Thank you. The next question is from Fred Sim. He's curious to know what your thoughts are on the Federal Government's response to the Aged Care Royal Commission report so far, especially given you've mentioned that your constituents in Tasmania, there's a lot of elderly people, and most of them not wealthy,

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 48:01

I just don't think the Prime Minister has any shame to be honest with you. Honestly, I just call it karma. But he'll probably have more than enough money to be in one of those you-beaut aged care centers. You know, when you've looked at 20 reviews, or 20 inquiries in the last 20 years, we've all known this...Labor's no better. They do very little when they were in power so you know, I find it absurd that Albanese can come out there and start smashing them when honestly, Labor didn't do a lot themselves. They're both to blame, everyone's to blame for what is going on in Aged Care and it needs to be fixed. Those recommendations need to be put in as quickly as possible. And there should be no excuses for not doing that. It blows me away how they can say that they'll have all these care packages out there for the people in their own homes out there, when we don't even have the workforce to back it up. You know, so what is wrong with, once again, TAFEs, we need students. Once again, what is wrong with saying, "Hey, if you go and do your Aged Care, you go and do your Cert(ificate) III or Cert(ificate) IV in AgedCare, we'll give it to you for nothing. And by the way, we're going to give you a pay rise as well, because you deserve one. You know, it's just like our cleaners out there cleaning the toilet, they're the worst paid in the country. And I just think, it just disgusts me that they're nearly below the minimum wage or just sitting right on top of it. Encourage people to go into that sector so we got more people to do the job. We still cannot get, you know, we still cannot get how much.... the little things like...we still can't get the statistics on, that Stirling Griff is really into, about how much they're spending on food. How much are they spending on, you know, what sort of stuff, why weren't there staff ratios, considering we have staff ratios in childcare centers. There was a lot of work to be done here. But to sit here and actually talk the talk and not walk the walk, especially with the most vulnerable people in our society and not actually get those implementations, not to put those recommendations in and implement them. I'll tell you what, I think it's just going to show what we've all been thinking about Morrison. He's got a perfect time, he's got the perfect chance now, the opportunity to stand up and say that he...show that he can actually walk the walk or not talk the talk. But I'll tell you, I'm not, I certainly won't be holding my breath over the situation, which is really unfortunate. But for goodness sake, if there's one thing that annoys me in Parliament, it's doing these inquiries and then doing exactly what they said about all those Aged Care ones - they go on a shelf, and they collect dust, and no one does anything about them. You know, it's dreadful, it's shocking what's going on in those Aged Care homes. And you know, even, even the practice of some of those Aged Care homes, unless you start doing something, I'm not sure it's going to leave it. You see the banks starting to misbehave themselves after the Royal Commission, you know. They're the ones that are going to do it before Aged Care is doing, is going back to normality and misbehaving if they're not already. You know, the only way you can do it is get those recommendations in as quickly as possible and really put your foot down on them.

**Ebony Bennett:** 50:59

Yeah, and we were just doing.... I did a podcast with our senior economist Matt Grudnoff yesterday and we were talking about the kind of economic aspects of it and what you've said there really hits the nail on the head. They're poorly paid, but it's an incredibly labor intensive industry, it needs more funding, it needs a bigger workforce, it needs a better qualified and a better paid workforce. If you can do all of that, that would be an absolute jobs bonanza for the country. So not only would we be giving dignity to all Australians living in Aged Care, but you'd actually be doing a hell of a lot to grow the economy, to reduce the unemployment rate, and to help lift wages for everyone. It's such a big sector, if it's having wages growth, that would help everybody else as well.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 51:43

And if you've got a sector where training is at a deficiency, then let them do their degrees or go through TAFE and we as taxpayers pay for it. You know, you've only got to do it for four to six years so you can get a numerous amount of people there. And even if you say, right, well, we've done this and paid for you, so you can do return of service. You know, these things are never discussed on the table. That's just common sense to me. Right, well we'll pay for that, but you have to stay in that sector for at least five years. Yeah, you know, or something.

**Ebony Bennett:** 52:12

I've lost track of all the questions here. Let me see. What else have we got? More, we've already asked about Federal ICAC. What else have we got here? Oh, here's one that kind of, you were just talking about the banks, Jacqui. So Alicia Gordon has asked, first of all, says thank you for making the time today and that she has real concerns about the treasurer's proposal to repeal the Responsible Lending laws, which is currently being reviewed by a Senate committee. Do you have any thoughts on that bill and the removal of individual's rights to take action against banks?

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 52:52

Yes, so I do. Yeah, I'm going to wait. Look, I always do the right thing; I let the inquiry do its job. And if I've got the time, I try and always get half a day in one of those inquiries, just so I can actually hear it. But I do, I do have an issue with that. It will be very interesting to see what the inquiry comes out with. And I'll wait until then, and have a good look at it. And we'll just see what's floating around and whether anyone's done any deals with them already, or whatever. But you know, I just, if people want to go and sue, they should have the right to do so. I watch this as B (squat?). And there was a law firm out there, which I found very disappointing, that said, "No, you take this or nothing, and you're not getting an option to sue for any more money." And they're supposed to be out there for the most vulnerable. I won't mention their name in case they sue me. But I was really disappointed in B squad (?) and the way that was for the most, some of them, our most, if not the most vulnerable people in our society that had some of the most physical and psychological issues that you can possibly imagine. That you know, they were getting them 50 cents an hour or whatever else, and that they made a deal that they could get 60% of their wages back. The law firm made a crapload of money out of it, and they were not allowed to sue for any further loss of earnings, you know. So I don't forget things like that; that made me feel sick to the gut. So I'll be watching this one very carefully.

**Ebony Bennett:** 54:16

And just to wrap us up, Jacqui, I know you've done a lot of work around veterans' issues. Is there anything on that front that you want to leave us with before we wrap up? We've only got five minutes.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 54:29

Not really. I think, you know, I've been out there banging the drum now for 8 years. It's sort of, you know, certainly the Tasmanian people when I first went out there, they said, What are you standing on? Because I had no, no idea what I was doing. I said, Well, I'm telling you that veterans aren't being treated any better than what they were since the Vietnam veterans. And they went, Oh, no, that's not true. And you spend five minutes with them. And they go, oh my god, they've learned nothing from our Vietnam veterans, have they? And I go, no. No. So I think by doing that, the.... you can see the wheels really turning now for that Royal Commission, but for me, there's only one way that this is going to be fixed. And that is by actually having a Royal Commission. I, with the amount of suicides that are going on, here's another....so this is another problem with the Prime Minister. He just won't admit when he's got it wrong. You just say "No, I've got this wrong. And we need a Royal Commission." But for us, just getting a Commission, a Commissioner, into veterans' suicide is like another slap in the face - it just took us down another peg. That's how we feel, as former serving members, because it's not just about what's happening under Veterans' Affairs and suicides. The suicides are nearly matching those that are coming off the base of those who are serving. The young kids. What the hell is going on? We're not screening them properly, to see if they're strong enough, is there abuse going on? So this thing goes much bigger and also go into the leadership and the culture of ADFA, RMC. This thing will grow like an octopus. This Commissioner does not have the power to do that. And with a Royal Commissioner, he can just change his terms of references going on. If he says, actually, though, that's got to be looked at because that's connected to this. I need somebody who knows what they're doing, and they do not. And it's not, once again, it's not independent. And this is what bothers me. This is what - when I say it's independent up there, especially over these allegations of rape and that sort of thing, and they starting to invite their own little independent group. They're not bloody independent. I've learned that, all the way along here. And you know, when you've got someone like Bernadette Boss that's been given the Commissioner's job, because she's damn good friends with the Defence Commissioner, and with the Secretary of DVA. And you, you want me to trust you in making that decision? I don't think so. I don't think so. So, for us there is only one way. We're having a big rally on the day before....we're really going to smack it out this year so we're having a big rally on the day before ANZAC Day, and we're just trying to get clearance through one of the states to be able to do that, because of COVID. So there'll be more on this getting out there in the next few weeks. But we're not mucking around - we want boots on the ground on that 24th of April. And we're going to go out there and give it our best shot and just really push the issue.

**Ebony Bennett:** 56:53

Excellent. Well, we're gonna have to wrap it up there. Thank you so much for your time, Jacqui Lambie, and thanks Eloise for joining us as well. And if I can just let everyone know, we've got a lot

more exciting webinars coming up over the next few weeks. So next week on Tuesday, March the 9th we're talking to the Senate President Scott Ryan, about the role of the Senate in our democracy. And we've got some exciting new research coming out about actually, that Australians don't know a lot about how the Senate works.

On Thursday, March 18, the Australia Institute is privileged to be hosting the launch of the Close The Gap report for 2021. The title of the report is Leadership and Legacy Through Crisis: Keeping our Mob Safe. That's on Thursday, March the 18th at noon, and then the day after that, we're talking to author and journalist Rick Morton about his new book "My year of Living Vulnerably". So Rick's done a lot of reporting, as some of you might know, through the Saturday Paper and elsewhere on, not only deficiencies in Aged Care and some of those horrific stories back through the NDIS, people living on NewStart, and a lot of people who really struggle to make ends meet. So it should be a great book. His last one was also wonderful, so stay tuned for that. Thanks for joining us today. Thanks for all your wonderful questions. I'm sorry that we couldn't get to all of them. And remember to stay safe out there. COVID's still out there. Stay one and a half meters away. Keep washing your hands and stay safe. Thanks, everyone, and we hope to see you next week. Thanks, Jacqui.

**Senator Jacqui Lambie:** 58:26

Thank you. Thank you very much.